Daily Report

Latin America

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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Castro Interviewed by German Newspaper Reporter *[Hamburg BILD 26 Feb]* 1
Reportage on 24 February Election Process 1
Assembly Deputies Election Confirmed *[Havana Radio]* 1
Election Percentages Confirmed *[Havana TV]* 1
Raul Castro Conducts Victory Tour *[Havana TV]* 1
'Anti-Cuban Campaigns' Analyzed *[Havana Radio]* 2
GRANMA Editorial Views Elections *[Havana Radio]* 2
Large Voter Turnout Noted *[Havana Radio]* 3
Election 'Defeat' for Boycott Supporters *[Havana Radio]* 3
Commentary on Parliament 'Rejuvenation' *[Havana Radio]* 3

Dominican Republic

Military Defends Border Against Haitian Refugees *[Santo Domingo TV]* 4

Haiti

Priests Denounce Government at Funeral Ceremony *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 4
Bishop Attacked by Demonstrators *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 5
Priests Demand Government Apology *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 5
Military Disperses Students Meeting 26 Feb *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 5

St. Lucia

Foreign Minister on Bananas, Latin America *[CANA]* 6

Trinidad and Tobago

Manning Stresses Need for Austere Economic Measures *[CANA]* 7

MEXICO

President Salinas Tours Six States, Pledges Aid *[Mexico City TV]* 8
Secretary: Mulroney Decision No Impact on NAFTA *[Mexico City TV]* 8
Police Find Guatemalan Guerrilla Weapons Cache *[Guatemala City TV]* 8

CENTRAL AMERICA

El Salvador

Cristiani Supports Sol's Presidential Candidacy *[San Salvador Radio]* 9
President Replaces Labor Minister, Deputy Minister *[San Salvador TV]* 9
FMLN Communique Urges Crime Prevention Plan *[EL MUNDO 26 Feb]* 9
President Announces 15 Percent Wage Increase *[San Salvador TV]* 9
Workers Organization Rejects Hike *[San Salvador Radio]* 10
Cristiani on Trade Accords With Guatemala, Honduras *[EL DIARIO DE HOY 27 Feb]* 10

Guatemala

Mediator Says Peace Talks Progressing *[NOTIMEX]* 11
Serrano on Guerrilla Commanders, Arrests *[SIGLO VEINTIUNO 25 Feb]* 11
Civilian Sectors Fear Military Action *[SIGLO VEINTIUNO 25 Feb]* 11
Congress President Advocates Change in Presidential System *[NOTIMEX]* 12
Labor Leader Wounded in Western Guatemala *[Guatemala City TV]* 13
Farm Workers Submit Petition to Labor Minister *[Guatemala City TV]* 13

Honduras

Troops Move in 'Routine Operation' To Fight Crime *[Tegucigalpa Radio]* 14
Callejas Explains Mobilization *[Tegucigalpa Radio]* 14
Movement Termed 'Act of Intimidation' *[Tegucigalpa Radio]* 15
CODEH Rejects Army's Explanation *[NOTIMEX]* 15
Militarization Extends to 2d Largest City *[NOTIMEX]* 16
Antiaircraft Batteries Deployed *[LA PRENSA 28 Feb]* 16
Deployment Resumes After Temporary Halt *[AFP]* 16

Nicaragua

Ministry Spokeswoman Rules Out DEA Office *[EL NUEVO DIARIO 25 Feb]* 16
UNO Claims Government Trying To Obstruct Rally *[Managua Radio]* 17
UNO Reaffirms 'Unsurrendering Will' at Rally *[Managua Radio]* 17
Obando y Bravo Interviewed on UNO Activity *[Managua TV]* 18
Cosep Demands Government Change Attitude *[Managua Radio]* 18
Chamorro Makes Anniversary Speech in Camoapa *[Managua Radio]* 19
Government Issues Communique on Governors' Dispute *[Managua Radio]* 20
President Chamorro Issues Decree on Tax Extensions *[Managua Radio]* 20
Compensation Process for Confiscations Initiated *[Managua TV]* 21
Revision of CIAV-OAS Mission Deemed Necessary *[EL SEMANARIO 25 Feb-4 Mar]* 21
Disarmament Brigade on Seizure of Large Arsenal *[EL NUEVO DIARIO 27 Feb]* 21

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Menem Signs Constitutional Reform Decree *[CLARIN 25 Feb]* 23
CNEA Official Denies Greenpeace Report *[PAGINA/12, 30 Jan]* 23
Extradition of Syrian Arms Smuggler Granted *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 23

Bolivia

MacLean Issues Letter on Talks With Chile *[Madrid EFE]* 23
Population Against Trade Relations with Chile *[La Paz Radio]* 24
Rumors of Zamora Meeting With Chilean Leader Denied *[La Paz TV]* 24
Conscience of Fatherland Ticket Starts Campaign *[EL MUNDO 13 Feb]* 24
Six New Supreme Court Justices Sworn In *[LA RAZON 19 Feb]* 25

Brazil

Government Defines Economic Measures *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 26 Feb]* 25
Franco Says No Economic Package Formulated Yet *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 25
Government Preparing Expense Control Program *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 26 Feb]* 26
Itamar 'Dissatisfied' With Performance of Haddad *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 26 Feb]* 26

Chile

Police Report Many MAPU-Lautaro Group Leaders in Jail *[LA NACION 19 Feb]* 27
Government Seeks Injunction Against Lautaro Group Leader *[Santiago Radio]* 27
Former Dina Director Blames CIA, DISIP For Letelier Killing *[Santiago TV]* 27

Aylwin Asked To Block Vote Against Cuba at UN *[Santiago Radio]* 29
Krauss Requests Information on Paraguayan Secret Archives *[LA NACION 13 Feb]* 29
Economic Pact With Venezuela; Stance on Cuba Noted *[Santiago Radio]* 29
Trade Relations Resumed With Bolivia *[Santiago TV]* 29
Government 'Concerned' Over Fruit Restrictions *[Santiago Radio]* 30

Colombia

Ecuador Grants Venezuelan Coupist Officers Asylum *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 30
President Comments on Crime, Rebels, Other Topics *[Santa Fe de Bogota]* 30
Constitutional Court Rules on Antiterrorist Statute *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* 31
Study Shows Drug Money 'Invading' Country *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 31
Medellin Car Bomb Explosion Leaves Over 40 Injured *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 32
Prominent Labor Leader Killed in Medellin *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* 32
Government Imposes Curfew in Uraba Municipalities *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 32
Drug Trafficking, Money Laundering Rings Dismantled *[Santa fe de Bogota TV]* 32
Anti-Escobar Group Destroys Ranch in Antioquia *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 33
Rebel Leader Captured, Search Operations Increase *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 33

Paraguay

Presidential Hopefuls Send Invitation to Carter *[NOTICIAS 26 Feb]* 33
Argana Delegates Walk Out During Colorado Convention *[Asuncion TV]* 34
Riquelme Closes Colorado Party Convention *[Asuncion Radio]* 34
Wasmosy-Seifart Ticket Wins Electoral Board *[ABC COLOR 28 Feb]* 35
Colorado Party Factions To Continue Struggle *[ABC COLOR 28 Feb]* 35
Colorado Faction Leader on Alleged Bribe for Board Members *[ABC COLOR 27 Feb]* 35
Supreme Court Resolves PRF Conflict *[ULTIMA HORA 24 Feb]* 36
Legislator Reports on Paraguayan Ultra-Right Group *[Asuncion Radio]* 36
ANR Urges Congressmen To Approve Lemas Law *[ABC COLOR 27 Feb]* 36

Peru

Car Bomb Attack in Lima Kills Two, Injures 50 *[Lima TV]* 37
Fujimori Discusses Foreign Debt, Human Rights *[Lima TV]* 37
Fujimori on Reinsertion Process; Human Rights *[Lima TV]* 40
Dincote Presents Shining Path Members to Media *[Lima TV]* 41
Party Censorship Reportedly Affects APRA Daily *[EL COMERCIO 12 Feb]* 41

Venezuela

Petroven President on U.S. Energy Tax, Consequences *[Caracas TV]* 41
Ochoa Discusses Severing Relations With Peru *[Lima CARETAS 18 Feb]* 42
Ochoa on Coupist Officers Arrested in Colombia *[Caracas TV]* 42
Defense Minister Comments *[Caracas TV]* 43
Bomb Hits Barinas Legislative Assembly, No Injuries *[AFP]* 44
Operation Begins To Remove Brazilian Gold Prospectors *[Caracas TV]* 44
* Venezuela To Promote Exports to Colombia *[Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO 25 Jan]* 44

Guyana

PNC Officially Expels Former Prime Minister *[CANA]* 45

Cuba

Castro Interviewed by German Newspaper Reporter

AU2602144093 Hamburg BILD in German 26 Feb 93 p 2

[Interview with President Fidel Castro by Peter Brinkmann; place and date not given: "Fidel Castro: I Am A Slave of the Revolution"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted on introductory paragraph on situation in Cuba]

[Brinkmann] What can Germany do for Cuba?

[Castro] I hope the new, powerful Germany will increase its pressure on America to end the embargo. Yet the new President, Clinton, is not Alexander the Great, who could cut the Gordian knot of political relations between Cuba and America with a sword. I have done many marathons for socialism. Yet I do not want to remain a slave of the revolution forever. I am now 66. I hope someone else will take over the baton of revolution within the next five years. Still, people need me. We must complete the revolution.

Say hello to Germany; the Germans are always welcome here. [passage omitted]

Reportage on 24 February Election Process

Assembly Deputies Election Confirmed

FL2602160293 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] According to information received from the National Electoral Commission, the 589 deputies who will compose the National Assembly of the People's Government during the new five-year term were elected with more than 50 percent of the valid votes cast. During the historic 24 February elections, 7,842,617 citizens who were qualified to vote voted, which represented 99.6 percent of the total registered voters.

According to the figures recorded in the capital, the partial elections held in December to elect the municipal government bodies had a voter turn-out of 98.38 percent, which is lower than the turn-out computed for the general elections. It was also announced that the National Electoral Commission is working hard to announce the names of the new members of the provincial assemblies of the people's government as soon as possible.

Election Percentages Confirmed

FL2702003193 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2320 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] The National Electoral Commission has just reported that 99.62 percent of Cuban voters cast ballots in the 24 February elections and that 88.48 percent cast a united vote. This information was given by Carlos Amat, the president of the National Electoral Commission.

[Begin Amat recording] In the 24 February elections, given that the population is an extremely dynamic thing—it changes daily—there was a group of individuals which were arriving at the electoral age of 16 years of age which, due to the composition of the Cuban population, is a very large sector of the population. The Cuban population consists, primarily, of young people. This, of course, increased the number of registered voters for this final phase of the 24 February elections. It has to be added, that of this amount of registered voters, over 7.8 million, 99.62 percent voted. It was a fairly massive participation, or almost totally massive. Only, a small .38 percentage did not participate in the elections. We have to keep in mind that the population travels and some are not in the country, work in other areas, or are outside the national territory. Of this amount of votes, the ballots cast totaled 7,842,617. Of these ballots, 92 percent were valid, and 7 percent were null. [end recording]

Raul Castro Conducts Victory Tour

FL2702032693 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Army General Raul Castro, the second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, conducted a tour of Segundo Frente Municipality following the victorious vote for the Revolution by the people.

The six candidates for deputy and delegate for Segundo Frente were not able to visit as a group several people's councils and district following the victorious elections on 24 February. During the night of the 98th anniversary of the Baire Uprising, at Raul's camp, Fidel was watched with enthusiasm on the television. The people also listened to the results of the elections in this municipality which like in the rest of Cuba, resulted in a resounding and historic revolutionary victory.

In Segundo Frente Municipality, of the approximately 26,400 [voters], over 99 percent cast ballots. Over 99 percent of voters also voted for candidates to deputy, Raul Castro and Jorge Cervantes, according to preliminary reports. The white ballots for the candidates to delegate of the provincial assemblies received an almost unanimous vote by the population.

Early in the morning [25 February], the elected candidates, Raul Castro and Jorge Cervantes, as well as the delegates to the provincial assemblies resumed the tour of the people's councils and district not visited already. This would become the first contact of the municipality representatives to the highest organization of the people's government with the voters who had elected them on the previous day by their massive and patriotic vote. This began to fulfill Fidel's guidelines regarding the close

and permanent contact between those elected and the voters as part of our goal to perfect the socialist democracy. [passage omitted]

'Anti-Cuban Campaigns' Analyzed

FL2602194393 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] Counterrevolutionary radio stations carried out a massive campaign against the Cuban elections. Reporter Zenaida Costales interviewed Leonardo Cano, a specialist in analyzing these anti-Cuban campaigns, on this subject. He made the following comments.

[Begin recording] [Cano] Eleven short-wave and four medium-wave radio stations are broadcasting against Cuba at present. All these stations, including the television broadcasts which cannot be seen [TV Marti], were orchestrated and designed to harm the election process by calling for nullification of one's ballot or abstaining from participation in the elections, or attempts to discredit this election process by trying to make it appear undemocratic, as if a process which began in the streets in November, at the neighborhood level, and ended on 24 February in the privacy—as a recent note in the newspaper said—of the voting booth, were not an absolutely democratic process.

So I think the first thing we must be aware of is that as a principle, they always try to act against the direction we are taking, the direction the Revolution needs, because propaganda is a reflection of policy, and their policy is to destroy the Revolution. Therefore, that has been the strategy, in essence, that they have followed during this time.

[Costales] I think our people have given their response, and I imagine that in the face of the resounding response by our people, these broadcasts have changed their aims. What can you tell me about this? What have they said since the elections?

[Cano] What is happening now? For example, after the results of the elections were announced, [we know] there is unanimity, but the socioeconomic affairs of our country, productive activities, and social life continue, and in this carrying out of productive and social life, we have another challenge. This is to defeat what those broadcasts are trying to do in terms of discouraging and confusing people, and in finding arguments to try to discourage our people in the political project we are attempting to execute. [end recording]

GRANMA Editorial Views Elections

FL2602194193 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1502 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] On 24 February, millions of compatriots put the final stamp on the fatherland's crushing victory via the ballot box. The editorial in the 26 February edition of the newspaper GRANMA says: One more page in history has thus been written, one as lofty as that other page, consistent with the page of history that was written by the revolutionaries of 1895.

This battle of ideas has been waged and won—with distinctive honor—at an extremely difficult moment for Cuba, a moment during which the Cuban nation's most ardent desires have been at stake, and Cuba has triumphed admirably. Further, the editorial adds: No other response could have been expected from a people of stock as patriotic as our own.

The people, who rose early, acted splendidly. They were accompanied by the Pioneers in charge of watching over the ballot boxes. Although they were not old enough to vote, through their presence the Pioneers put their stamp on a resounding "Yes to Cuba," and all personnel involved, whether at the polling stations or working at other tasks, ensured the success of the process.

The GRANMA editorial adds: When it comes time to tell the story of these unforgettable days, we will always remember with pride how we expanded the democratic meaning of the process, which made it possible for us to seek new paths in the constant effort to bring our leaders and masses closer together and to promote a constant dialogue between them. As always, Fidel set a personal example, in the characteristic style that has set him apart for more than three decades. With his combatant's vision, he laid out the common strategy to be followed in this political battle against the enemy that needed to be won unequivocally.

In the editorial, GRANMA also points out that the enemy ran its candidate, barbarism, in thousands of appeals to abstain that were made over the counterrevolutionary radio stations financed by the U.S. Government. Imperialism and its flunkies encouraged abstaining, and suffered a humiliating defeat. For sincere Cubans, those appeals fell on deaf ears, and only an insignificant minority of weak-willed people took imperialism's side against their own fatherland.

We Cubans voted so that no one will ever be able to desecrate any corner where a martyr has been laid to rest, or sully a monument to a hero. We voted so that no one can make himself rich off the illnesses of his fellow men. We voted for the social welfare of our elderly, the protection of our children, and guaranteed employment. We voted against imperialism. We voted for socialism.

Lastly, the GRANMA editorial, which is carried on the last page, points out that we have come out of these elections strengthened, and that in the coming days we will have to even further increase the enthusiasm we are seeing today, because we have ahead of us the sugar harvest, which we must undertake amid difficulties of unimaginable proportions.

Many other fields of battle await us as well. Our vote now means work, selflessness, and effort in order to

advance along the road, overcoming through our boldness and our talents the double embargo that is forcing our days to become still more difficult and heroic. We defended our achievements at the polls, and we will know how to maintain them, in all spheres, to our last breath. Such is the vote we have cast.

Large Voter Turnout Noted

PA2702012693 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Cubans prevailed over the attempts by the United States and the radical sector of Cuban exiles, who are residents in that country, to alter the island's general elections on 24 February. The great number of people who went to vote supported the Cuban position. Despite efforts made in Miami and other U.S. cities to scatter the elections, it is evident that Cubans supported their native democracy. The Cuban voters' active participation in the election of 589 national deputies and 1,190 provincial government officials, despite the serious economic situation in the country, constituted an expression of national unity.

Many enemies of the Cuban process predicted that people would boycott the process because of the severe current material deprivations caused by the U.S. economic blockade and the loss of the island's traditional commercial partners. If we accept the name plebiscite—as many people called the elections—it is opportune to point out that the Cubans emphasized their determination to resist and conserve their independence by going to vote in such large numbers.

An unprejudiced observer would have reached the logical conclusion that the Cubans were going to support their candidates because they had been nominated by the people themselves [words indistinct] with information from the Communist Party. The Cubans accepted the people who had been nominated to the parliament [words indistinct] represented the country's entire social spectrum.

The large voter turnout was also meaningful because it was the culmination of a process marked by purity and a lack of political chicanery, individualism, demagoguery, and disloyal competition.

The 24 February election followed a phase where candidates and voters held informal meetings, which contributed to the reaffirmation of their patriotism and was a genuine interaction between the country's grass roots and the people who wanted to manage the government.

Native democracy has just won a trial by fire. If their conscience and identity prompts them to be objective, the 200 accredited foreign journalists will report the event truthfully.

Election 'Defeat' for Boycott Supporters

PA2702140293 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Roberto Morejon commentary]

[Text] Critics of the Cuban revolution have been demanding for a long time direct, secret elections in Cuba in the hopes the current political process would be defeated at the polls.

Even though it would be false to say there were no elections in Cuba during the last 30 years—elections were held at the municipal level in the late 1970's—the truth is that Cubans postponed their general elections for the proper time to concentrate on important economic and social duties. When Cubans finally deemed the proper time arrived, they amended their laws and decided to revamp their parliament and provincial governments.

The measure was not adopted due to pressures from abroad and Cubans went ahead with it despite the current economic problems of the island caused by the tightening of the U.S. blockade and the reduction of three-fourths of Cuba's purchasing power, which had been previously guaranteed by Eastern Europe.

Those in the West who call for the implementation of a capitalist model in the island, thought the scarcity of goods would compel Cubans to condemn the revolution by refraining from voting or by nullifying their votes. The propaganda bombardment of 1,112 hours of broadcast time per week by 15 medium- and short-wave radio stations tried to influence Cubans in that direction. However, the results of the general elections in Cuba held on 24 February, the honesty of which could be proven by the almost 200 journalists from 25 countries, constituted a defeat for those who recommended a boycott of the elections.

The attendance of nearly 98 percent of eligible Cuban voters and the enthusiasm with which they celebrated their popular victory, should be interpreted as a milestone of the revolutionary stage. The ratification in the polls of the candidates vying for a seat in the parliament and provincial governments, who were nominated by a special method, showed the voters' trust in the rules of the game.

In the privacy of their voting booths Cubans delivered a message, which cannot be ignored by the weak internal counterrevolutionaries and by those who make a fortune abroad betting on the quick return of capitalism to the island.

Commentary on Parliament 'Rejuvenation'

PA2802212393 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Commentary by Roberto Morejon]

[Text] The composition of the new Cuban parliament, whose candidates were approved unanimously in the 24 February general elections, highlights that the youths are an active force that participates in the administration of the country.

The new Cuban Legislative Branch, with a mandate of five years, displays the broad spectrum of society and the number of rank and file leaders of the People's Government, who have earned a large number of legislative seats.

If in fact these are revealing elements of the characteristics of one of the main state governing bodies, the high number of youths is viewed as an outstanding characteristic.

The average age of the 589 deputies elected at the polls is 43 years, and even 227 of them—namely 38.54 percent—are between 18 and 30 years of age.

According to analysts, the new National Assembly of the People's Government could be one of the youngest parliaments in the world. The promulgation of a law granting the right to become deputy at the age of 18 contributed to this outcome.

The Cuban legislature combines experience with vigor, enterprising spirit, and the vast working capacity of the new generations, who will occupy their legislative seats next March, when the new parliament will be officially installed. If we add that all those elected by 99.6 percent of the voters of the country have an higher education level, we would have a clearer picture of the broad capacity of the Cuban deputies for analyzing and debating.

Undoubtedly, the human quality and merits of the different generations of Cubans represented at the parliament are a pillar that supports the expectations inherent to public positions of such importance in any country.

The rejuvenation of the Legislative Branch will allow Cuban youths to learn from historical leaders and, in turn, convey to them their points of view on the most important issues in the country. This will permit Cuba to face the end of the 20th century with a generation of experienced youths in search of national solutions.

Dominican Republic

Military Defends Border Against Haitian Refugees

FL2602193093 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 1000 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] Lieutenant General Constantino Matos Villanueva, secretary of the Armed Forces, has stated that the Dominican Republic is trying to protect its border with Haiti to prevent a massive influx of Haitians into its territory in the event that the neighboring country is invaded to restore Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power. Matos said, however, that the Dominican Republic will not participate in any attack on Haiti. He said the government will defend its own national sovereignty but will not interfere in the affairs of other countries.

Haiti

Priests Denounce Government at Funeral Ceremony

FL2602183893 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Excerpts] About 40 political parties, including the National Front for Change and Democracy, FNCD, the National Agricultural and Industrial Party, PAIN, RNCH [not further identified], the Movement for National Reconstruction, MRN, CATH, the Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers, and PRADEP [not further identified] had taken the initiative of holding the funeral ceremony in the Port-au-Prince Cathedral on the morning of 25 February in memory of the 78 victims of the shipwreck of the Neptune.

The mass, which turned into a political demonstration in favor of President Aristide, attracted more than 2,000 believers who applauded Jeremie Bishop Romelus and Father Jean-Juste, who also spoke. Bishop Romelus attacked the current team in power, saying it was defending its personal interests instead of working for the country and the Haitian people. If the authorities had planned more organization for the country, they could have avoided such a catastrophe, according to Bishop Romelus. The Jeremie bishop, pointing his finger at the leaders of the country, said they claimed to be short of resources to rescue the victims, but they can buy tanks and find resources to send floats down the streets. [passage omitted]

In his message in the Port-au-Prince Cathedral on 25 February, Bishop Romelus warned the UN/OAS international mission in Haiti that it could just return to where it came from if a hair of the people was touched. Bishop Romelus also complained that the authorities and the general hospital refused to hand over the 78 bodies for which the funeral was being held. A source from the general hospital advised that only relatives of the dead could receive the bodies.

Father Jean-Juste continued talking along the same line as Bishop Romelus. Father Jean-Juste directly criticized the government of Prime Minister Marc Bazin as well as the Haitian military. He even suggested confiscating the property of all who committed crimes in the country and handing those properties over to the victims of the shipwreck. Finally, Father Jean-Juste offered an ultimatum to the government of Marc Bazin.

It should be mentioned that right after the mass, one group of people began to demonstrate in favor of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, and another group,

against the return of Aristide, marched against the demonstrators in favor. Trouble began between the two groups. Police intervened and arrested more than 10 people in both camps. Those arrested included priests, seminarians, a Radio Signal FM journalist, and a correspondent of Voice of America. Alerte Josue who described her arrest, stated that she was stricken by the police. The journalists, priests, and seminarians were released shortly afterwards.

The mass held on 25 February at the Port-au-Prince Cathedral was the second mass held in memory of the victims. The first mass was celebrated on 22 February in the presence of the apostolic nuncio, Bishop Lorenzo Baldiseri. Bishop Romelus celebrated a symbolic funeral on 22 February in the Cathedral Saint-Louis in Jeremie. Before the day of the mass, Jeremie received several visits from ministers of Marc Bazin government. The Army general in chief also attended. The apostolic nuncio left Jeremie yesterday afternoon following a solidarity visit with all the believers of the Jeremie Diocese now in mourning.

Bishop Attacked by Demonstrators

FL2602174193 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] Several demonstrators attacked the bishop of Jeremie, Willy Romelus, on the afternoon of 25 February near the Port-au-Prince Cathedral. This incident took place while the bishop was leaving the Cathedral after assisting some people who had been participating in the Mass he celebrated in memory of the victims of the wreck of the ferry Neptune. The Mass turned into a political demonstration in favor of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

During the attack, the bishop fell, then rose, when the French Deputy Chief of Mission Philipe Seltz intervened between the demonstrators and Bishop Willy Romelus. The demonstrators, calling Bishop Romelus a communist, kicked him, hit him, and tore his clothing. With the help of the UN mission's Michael Muller, a Dane, the bishop finally got into a diplomatic car which quickly sped away.

Paul Dejean, one of the leaders of the Haitian Platform for Human Rights, who is close to Father Aristide, was also attacked. Another worshipper was hit several times by demonstrators opposed to the demonstration after the Mass. He was saved by police intervention.

Before the incident, several diplomatic cars—from Germany, Canada, and France, as well as from the UN/OAS civilian mission—picked up dozens of believers, some of them hiding their faces, who had taken refuge inside the Cathedral and were afraid to come out. Later the people left the Cathedral without incident and were escorted by Port-au-Prince police.

The mass in memory of the victims of the Neptune wreck turned into a pro-Aristide political demonstration.

Priests Demand Government Apology

FL2602231893 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] The priests in the Jeremie Diocese reacted following the incidents on 25 February in the area around the cathedral. One of the priests read the common position of the Grand-Anse priests. They demand a public apology from the government after the attack on Bishop Willy Romelus.

[Begin unidentified priest recording, in Creole] We, all the priests in the Jeremie Diocese, raise our voices with all our strength, courage, and with complete faith to protest what the government, which confiscated the 16 December power, did to our bishop, Willy Romelus. As everyone heard on the radio, yesterday afternoon at around 1500, while Bishop Willy Romelus was leaving the Port-au-Prince Cathedral to go to the archdiocese courtyard to get his car, a group of soldiers in civilian clothes, called attaches, who were standing in front of the cathedral, started shouting: Romelus communist, Romelus communist. Down with communist! Down with Romelus! One of the five people, who was accompanying the bishop, hurried to get the UN/OAS observers who were standing in front of the cathedral.

By the time the observers arrived, the military in civilian clothes, who numbered approximately 50, had fallen on the bishop as falcons attack chicken. They slapped, kicked, and punched. The bishop's glasses were broken and lost. No one knows where the glasses fell. They tore the red sash he was wearing as well as his red hat. They pushed him like a thief. He was about to fall when one of those accompanying him supported him. Others who were accompanying him were severely beaten. When the UN/OAS observers arrived, they quickly took him away in a diplomatic car. If it were not for those five people accompanying the bishop, along with the help of the observers, Bishop Romelus would have been dead because the attaches fell on him like furious lions.

We, who work hand in hand with Bishop Romelus, protest with all our strength, courage, complete faith, and absolute feelings as Haitian patriots this attack that the government, which stole the 16 December power, committed against Bishop Romelus. We demand that the current authorities make a public apology and all the legal redresses to Bishop Romelus. [end recording]

Military Disperses Students Meeting 26 Feb

FL2602225293 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] Today, there is a police presence at the School of Agronomy. At 1000 this morning, a police detachment arrived at the school in Damien where the students committee was holding a significant meeting.

Obviously excited, the policemen asked the students to leave the premises despite the presence of a few observers from the civilian mission. According to witnesses, the students left the building without being arrested. Let us listen to a student's explanation as told to correspondent Edner Jean.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified student, in Creole] While the students were in the courtyard before the meeting, a military unit arrived. There were approximately 15 uniformed military personnel and several others in civilian clothes. There were also several military attaches accompanying this unit. They spread panic inside the school, applying great pressure on the students. They forced all the students to leave. Therefore, the assembly was not held.

Right now, the school is occupied by the military. There is a policeman at each gate watching the school. We do not know why the military acted in this manner. Is it part of an act of intimidation in order to keep Robert Joseph as the dean of the school? We think that it is one more act that the military is accustomed to using, just as the December bloodshed in Damien.

[Jean] Were you demonstrating this morning? Did a demonstration start inside the school?

[Unidentified student] No. There had not been a demonstration yet. As I told you, the students were about to hold a general assembly to express their position, especially following measures which affected five of the students at the school, four members of the student council and one in the third year. The military arrived and dispersed everything.

[Jean] Were any students hit or arrested?

[Unidentified student] No students were hit, based on what I know. All the students ran away. Now only the military is on the grounds. [end recording]

St. Lucia

Foreign Minister on Bananas, Latin America

FL2502202993 Bridgetown CANA in English 1855 GMT 25 Feb 93

[By Peter Richards]

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, Feb 25, CANA—St. Lucia on Thursday made it clear that future relations with Latin America depend on the retention of preferential treatment for its banana exports to the European Community (EC). The banana-exporting Windward Islands, of which St. Lucia is a member, is facing a determined challenge from Latin American competitors who want to expand their share of the European market by bringing about an end to preferential treatment for Windward Islands bananas.

"Their (the Latins) friendship will now be judged by the willingness to desist from further attempts to deny our people their right to exist," St. Lucia Foreign Affairs Minister George Mallet said.

Mallet, speaking on the occasion of the inaugural visit of the M.V. Geest St. Lucia banana ship, said "vitriolic attacks" by the Latin Americans on Caribbean countries over the banana issue, had brought their sincerity into question. He referred to the vigorous Latin campaign to overturn a new EC banana trade agreement which retains traditional preferential treatment for Windwards bananas, and said it was being carried out by "those whom we assumed to be our friends, but who now seek to destroy the very means of our livelihood."

The Windward Islands contend that their vital banana industry face certain death without preferential treatment because they are unable to compete with their Latin rivals who, they say, already control 80 per cent of the European market. Mallet expressed St. Lucia's thanks to those European countries which "steadfastly" supported the Windward Islands and other banana producing countries of the African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) group "to ensure that the banana protocol of the Lome Convention (an economic cooperation treaty between the EC and ACP) is honoured within the changes brought about by the single market." Under the protocol, ACP members were assured by the EC that under any new agreement, such as the recently concluded one, they would not be placed at a disadvantage in the market.

Mallet, also St. Lucia's deputy prime minister, said the "battle" over bananas was not over. Urging farmers to concentrate on improving their fruit quality and reducing costs, he said: "We are living in an increasingly competitive world and the banana industry has to face up to this reality."

Agriculture minister Ira d'Auvergne said the new U.S. 45 million dollar vessel, the first of a new fleet being put into operation by Geest in the coming months, would provide St. Lucia with an opportunity to increase non-traditional agricultural exports. Geest purchases and sells Windwards bananas in the United Kingdom.

D'Auvergne said St. Lucia was already shipping pineapples to the U.K. and with space on the new vessels for exports other than bananas, he was hoping it would spur the island's drive for agricultural diversification.

Geest West Indies chairman, William Rapier, said that by commissioning the vessels, the British multinational was showing its commitment to the Windward Islands.

"Geest is not only here to say, but to help ensure in every way that the (banana) industry survives.... and plays its full part in the economic life of the windward islands," he said.

The M.V. Geest Dominica will be put into service in April, Rapier said. The ships will be able to transport over 4,500 tons of bananas and 200 twenty feet containers.

Trinidad and Tobago

Manning Stresses Need for Austere Economic Measures

FL2702180093 Bridgetown CANA in English 1627 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Feb 27, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's future depends on current economic decisions, according to Prime Minister Patrick Manning.

"Do we wish to remain forever indebted to the international agencies, or do we wish to return to a state of economic independence whereby everyone can live the life of economic peace and security?" Manning asked in a newspaper ad Saturday. "There is no doubt in my mind that the decisions we make now will decide whether or not future generations regard us as responsible and caring or mindful only of present day concerns. "The future of Trinidad and Tobago is at stake here."

Manning said that he was very much aware of the pressures which the population must be experiencing as the government seeks to put the country on a sound economic footing.

".... But believe me, we are getting there and getting there much quicker than we had envisaged," said the leader of the 14-month-old government. He identified the country's high external debt as one of the major obstacles facing the country. Stating that the country had done "extremely well" in repayments, the geologist said that almost three billion dollars (one TT dollar = 23.5 U.S. cents) has been paid to the foreign creditors and 745 million dollars to the local ones. The country's domestic debt is estimated at 5.2 billion dollars and the foreign debt at 5.8 billion dollars.

Manning said that government's willingness to pay its debt was sending a clear signal to investors that the country was serious about bringing economic stability back to the country. Stating that the ruling party had promised hard work and results within its five- year mandate, Manning said some of the measures may appear harsh, but they had to be done. Trade liberalisation, he added, need not be as painful as some were making it to be.

"Our manufacturers must recognise the need to become more competitive if we are to make the kind of impact on the international market that I know we are capable of," he remarked. "The creative energies of our people must be combined with managerial acumen to make trade liberalization work for us."

Stating that government also remained committed to the rationalization of the public utilities, the prime minister said the government was not unmindful of the strains of the adjustment process in the utilities. He said that the Ministry of Labour was now putting together a programme aimed at assisting displaced workers in starting a new life. Government's plan to retrench more than 3,000 workers from three public utilities has been met with opposition by public sector unions reflecting an increase this year in public protest demonstrations.

He said the programme will come on stream shortly and urged the trade unions to work with the Ministry in helping displaced workers make the transition as quickly as possible.

President Salinas Tours Six States, Pledges Aid

PA2702170793 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Excerpt] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari on 26 February concluded a two-day tour of six states. In Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua Salinas said the following:

[Begin Salinas recording] I must tell you that social infrastructure plans are included in the 1.5 billion new peso budget, equivalent of $500 million, which we are investing in all of the border cities of our great nation to improve the quality of the environment. [end recording]

President Salinas answered one of the main demands made by the government and people of Chihuahua: a secure and functional international bridge that will allow the rapid flow of people, as well as imports and exports, because the existing bridge has serious structural damage.

[Begin Salinas recording] I have been informed the United States has pledged its portion. I wish to announce that I have decided to begin immediately the construction of the new Bridge of the Americas. [end recording]

Construction will begin before the end of March; we will not abandon you, said the president, who at 1400 boarded the airplane that would take him to Oaxaca.

In Oaxaca, President Salinas said the trilateral free trade agreement will allow Mexico to steer the creation of jobs to the most populated cities so people will not have to leave their cities to improve their standard of living. [passage omitted]

Secretary: Mulroney Decision No Impact on NAFTA

PA2602215293 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari announced on 25 February in Monterrey support programs for 9 billion new pesos for 11,200 small businessmen throughout the nation. The president made this announcement during a meeting to discuss financing for the improvement of productivity, competition, and environment. At the same meeting, Jaime Jose Serra Puche, secretary of Commerce and Industrial Development, presented the program, 21st Century Companies. Serra Puche assured that there is no reason for the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA] to be affected by Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulrony's decision to resign. Here is what Secretary Serra Puche said:

[Begin Serra Puche recording] I believe it is very important we point out—without speculation—that the facts confirm the decision of the three North American governments, that is; the treaty should implemented on 1 January 1994. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Police Find Guatemalan Guerrilla Weapons Cache

PA2702024493 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] While representatives of the Guatemalan Government and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] continued their talks in Mexico City on 26 February, local authorities in Tehuacan, Puebla, are trying to determine how the residents of a house were hiding weapons allegedly destined for the URNG. Media reports indicate that a device exploded in a house in Tehuacan, which led to the arrest of an individual identified as Cesar Mauricio Garcia Mendez, who confessed to the Mexican police his ties to the URNG. The reports add that four other persons were arrested at the site. They also admitted to being members of the URNG, but their nationality was not disclosed. At the site of the explosion the police found 25 RPG-7 grenades, 25 mines, eight rockets, 12 mortar rounds, nine AK-47 rifles, and ammunition.

El Salvador

Cristiani Supports Sol's Presidential Candidacy

PA2702132593 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] On the night of 25 February, President Alfredo Cristiani supported Armando Calderon Sol's presidential candidacy in the Nationalist Republican Alliance, Arena. He said Calderon Sol was the politician most accepted by Salvadorans. Many Arena members believe Cristiani's statement was an endorsement of Calderon Sol's quest to become the government party's presidential candidate. Arena is to announce its presidential candidate at the end of March. President Cristiani praised Calderon Sol at the ceremony to unveil a statue of late Arena leader Roberto D'Aubuisson.

President Replaces Labor Minister, Deputy Minister

PA2702034093 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani surprised everyone when he swore in a new minister and deputy minister of labor and social welfare on the afternoon of 26 February. It is still not known if the former minister and deputy minister resigned or were dismissed. Dr. Juan Sifontes will be the new labor and social welfare minister, and Dr. Daniel Eloy Gomez will be the new deputy minister, replacing Dr. Mauricio Gonzalez Dubon and Rolando Alfredo Lizama Chacon, respectively.

The change at the Labor and Social Welfare Ministry had been requested by various labor organizations in the country. Even opposition deputies had requested a hearing at the Legislative Assembly with Gonzalez Dubon. Such a meeting never took place.

President Cristiani also swore in Juan Manuel Bolanos Sandoval as the new Immigration Department director. Bolanos will replace Engineer Rodolfo Hernandez.

FMLN Communique Urges Crime Prevention Plan

PA2802133993 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 26 Feb 93 p 28

[Report on communique issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, Political Committee; place and date not given]

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, Political Committee in Mejicanos stated the murder of Fredy Torres Portillo, a member of that committee, "occurred within the framework of the social and political genocide resulting from economic recession and a power vacuum in the Judicial Branch, which has caused political destabilization following the signing of the peace agreements."

The preventive measures adopted by the government to promote a plan against crime to counter the wave of political and common murders have failed due to the absence of complementary, technical, legal, and political factors to render them as efficient as citizens demand. The communique added:

"1. The plan against crime does not include crime prevention through real awareness programs in educational centers, in the outskirts and center of the capital city, as well as at the regional and departmental levels.

"2. By not collecting military weapons in the hands of civilians and former soldiers, the government has not complied with the peace agreements. Those weapons should be under the control of the government and military centers. According to the peace agreements, the collection of military weapons should have ended the last week of February 1993.

"3. The deployment of the second contingent of the National Civilian Police, PNC, has been delayed and due to lack of political vision the first contingent was deployed in areas where their presence was not necessary."

The FMLN communique continued: Therefore, we urge the government:

"1. To comply with the commitment assumed in the peace agreements by completing as soon as possible the collection of military weapons currently in the hands of civilians and former soldiers.

"2. Expedite technical training and provide the next PNC contingent with the necessary material resources and provide for their quick deployment to more populated areas with a high crime rate.

"3. Prepare a plan against crime and implement strict judicial measures, within the framework of international law, against civilians and soldiers who take justice in their own hands."

President Announces 15 Percent Wage Increase

PA2702141893 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Report by Ervin Ortiz]

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani announced on 25 February a 15 percent minimum wage increase for the country's private sector, including rural and urban workers.

The new wage increase, which will become effective eight days after publication in the official journal, will include the country's industrial, business, and agriculture sectors. The president said the table for the new wage increase was drafted by the National Minimum Wage Council and it is the product of agreements reached by the Economic and Social Forum for Concerted Action. Workers in the industrial and business

sectors will get a salary increase from 27 to 31 colones per day; coffee mill workers will get a salary increase from 17 to 24 colones per day; cotton and sugarcane field workers will get a salary increase from 13 to 17 colones per day; workers over the age of 16 in the farming sector will get a salary increase from 13 to 16 colones; and those who are under 16 or handicapped will get a salary increase from 13 to 15 colones per day.

[Begin Cristiani recording] We believe we are gradually moving in the right direction in this new stage in our country in which words and dialogue prevail over violence. We are pleased to make this announcement, which I am sure will be welcomed by the working class in our country. [end recording]

Beginning the first week in March, workers in the private sector will earn a monthly average of 950 colones, depending on the area in which they work.

The president also discussed the work done by the Corruption Commission and said three institutions are being investigated because irregularities in the handling of public funds have been detected.

[Begin Cristiani recording] Three of these cases will be turned over to the Commission To Investigate Criminal Actions, but obviously we are not going to give major details because it would alert the people involved in the cases. When the investigations are concluded, however, the results are going to be announced. [end recording]

The president also said the Armed Forces recovered the weapons that were under their control and had been lent to different offices, officials, or associations that had requested them for their personal security. The Armed Forces have, in turn, provided appropriate weapons so they can continue providing their own security or protection.

Workers Organization Rejects Hike

PA2702141993 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Report by Flora Aleman]

[Text] On 25 February President Cristiani's government announced a seven- colon hike to the minimum wage for rural and urban workers. On 26 February, the Latin American Central Organization of Workers, CLAT, in El Salvador rejected the government's proposal. CLAT official Jose Luis Rendero said the minimum wage increase was very small and does not cover workers' cost of living expenses.

[Begin Rendero recording] We are unhappy with the government's announcement on the minimum wage increase. [Words indistinct] nor do we share the government's decision because we consider the increase does not fill the needs or solve the problems of our coworkers in the private sector, primarily our agricultural, industrial, and business workers. [end recording]

In January 1993, Cristiani said his government decided to increase the wages of all government employees. The increase amounted to approximately 22 percent a year, depending on the employee's salary. At that time, the government workers sector also expressed its discontent with the governmental decision, as the increase given them did not cover their basic needs.

On behalf of CLAT, Rendero urged the government to be more responsible in its economic policy and to discuss this type of decision with the interested sectors.

[Begin Rendero recording] To give you an example, the increase given to the workers in the industrial and business sectors will only amount to four colones. We do not believe this is a meaningful increase. The increase does not even pay the worker's daily bus fares. We demand the government be more responsible in this respect. The government should discuss such decisions with worker representatives to reach a worthwhile agreement. [end recording]

Cristiani on Trade Accords With Guatemala, Honduras

PA2802035993 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 27 Feb 93 p 5

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani announced that a series of agreements will be put into effect on 1 March to facilitate trade between Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.

During a meeting on 26 February between the American Chambers of Commerce of Central America and Panama in San Salvador, President Cristiani said among the commercial instruments to be implemented are a new Central American Tariff System (SAC), which will replace the obsolete Central American Uniform Tariff Nomenclature (NAUCA).

Also effective 1 March, a Common Foreign Tariff will be implemented, establishing a minimum tariff of 5 percent and a maximum of 20 percent for all products, with average tariffs of 10 and 15 percent.

According to Cristiani, the Common Foreign Tariff will exclude textiles, clothing, and shoes, which will have a tariff of 30 percent until the end of 1993 when in 1994 it will be reduced to 25 percent.

In addition, a Uniform Central American Customs Code and a Central American Regulation on Unfair Trade and Protection Clause will also be implemented.

Cristiani said the agreements are aimed at countering "dumping" [preceding word in English] and subsidies benefiting products from third countries.

He added that the agreements signed by the presidents of the so-called "Northern Triangle" seek to promote economic growth in the three nations, which in turn will result in socioeconomic improvement for their inhabitants.

"The idea is creating a dynamic market with more than 300 million consumers who represent 80 percent of the Central American GNP," Cristiani stressed.

Guatemala

Mediator Says Peace Talks Progressing

PA2702145193 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0424 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Mexico City, 26 Feb (NOTIMEX)— Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada Toruno, mediator in the Guatemalan peace talks, says the Guatemalan Government and guerrillas have made considerable progress and established a minimum agenda for their forthcoming meeting in March.

Quezada Toruno announced in a final communique that the delegations representing the government of President Jorge Serrano Elias and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) agreed to meet again in Mexico City on 10 March.

This was the 12th round of negotiations since their first meeting in Oslo, Norway to end over 30 years of internal war in Guatemala.

Quezada Toruno said considerable progress was made during three days of negotiations that concluded on 26 February, such as the discussion of initiatives and proposals. He pointed out that during the meeting both sides presented various documents aimed at stepping up the process.

According to the communique, the final proposals presented by the government and URNG include such issues as the completion and signing of the universal human rights agreement.

Meanwhile, Manuel Conde Orellana, head of the Guatemalan Government delegation to the peace negotiations, described the meeting as "positive."

He also took a positive view of the enforcement and immediate verification of the human rights agreement and the signing of a protocol on mechanisms to examine the substantive and operational issues established in the August 1991 agreement, in the presence of witnesses (two Mexican Government officials).

Quezada Toruno pointed out that the sides in conflict agreed to suspend this meeting in order to intensify the discussion on the contents and scope of the issues that were analyzed.

In a separate statement at the end of the negotiations, Manuel Conde regretted that the meeting had ended.

"The government regrets that the URNG leadership has not responded affirmatively regarding the establishment of dates and a definite course for the process, but takes a positive view of their presentation of certain documents," Conde Orellana said.

Meanwhile, Quezada Toruno said the sides discussed the possibility of concluding the peace process within a reasonable amount of time.

"A number of steps have been taken that for the first time allow me to see a light at the end of the tunnel" said Quezada, who is also president of the National Reconciliation Commission.

The round of negotiations was sincere and fluid because neither of the two sides attempted to be a winner, Quezada Toruno said of the talks, during which a minimum agenda was established for the next meeting.

Serrano on Guerrilla Commanders, Arrests

PA2602133993 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 25 Feb 93 p 12

[Text] President Jorge Serrano and Defense Minister Jose Domingo Garcia Samayoa forwarded reports to the Supreme Court of Justice denying Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) commanders are being held illegally.

Serrano Elias affirms in the report that as commander in chief of the Armed Forces, he has no knowledge of the arrest of several members of the insurgency, contrary to reports by the Guatemalan Human Rights Commission (CDHG) in exile.

The CDHG filed habeas corpus actions on behalf of several guerrilla leaders who, according to the commission, were captured by the army and are being held at clandestine prisons.

The report was filed after hearing testimony by Santiago Cabrera Lopez and Jaime Adalberto Agustin Recinos. The men appeared before the UN Human Rights Commission and reported serious human rights and basic freedom violations against Guatemalan civilians.

The two men said they were URNG fighters and had been captured by the army without being charged by an appropriate court, according to the law. This is a situation faced by other fighters who are also subjected to torture and ill treatment.

In light of these charges the Supreme Court of Justice accepted the filed actions, but has not made much progress as it received the reports on 24 February from the president and defense minister, the subjects of the habeas corpus actions.

Civilian Sectors Fear Military Action

PA2602035893 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 25 Feb 93 p 6

[Text] At a news conference, Byron Morales, the spokesman for the civilian sector coordinating board, expressed the board's fear of a military offensive against the civilian population. The board comprises human rights organizations, religious groups, trade unions, student and people's associations.

Morales said that the "Guatemalan Government constantly and institutionally confronts national civilian sectors and describes any stance different from its own as destabilizing and subversive."

This is why, according to the board, "military and governmental representatives constantly attack academic institutions, the university sector, Nobel Prize winner Rigoberta Menchu, refugees still abroad and those who have returned home, and even the media."

The civilian institution representatives also stated that "the control of offices, organization seats, or people is commonplace. Anonymous death threats, slander, and exile are carried out against those who think differently from the government."

"To this we must add the disquieting reports on the beginning of large-scale military offensives by the army, and the disrespect for the civilian population in the areas inhabited by the CPR [Communities of Resistant People] and the relocated refugees."

In the board's opinion, "the army position is to solve the armed conflict militarily, while carrying out a bloody assault on the civilian population, who are calling for a political solution to the unrest."

The coordinating board contends that "it is not the extremist groups or groups beyond the control of the Armed Forces who are perpetrating the violent actions, as such attacks are carried out institutionally."

"This thought has dominated the votes of the UN Human Rights Commission representatives since 1986, which contributed to the death of Myrna Mack and the massacres at El Aguacate and Santiago Atitlan."

The permanent commissions request a political solution, not a military solution, to the armed conflict, the immediate signing of the human rights agreements, their entrance into effect and verification.

Congress President Advocates Change in Presidential System

PA2802175793 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0123 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 27 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Congress President Fernando Lobo Dubon proposed the replacement of the presidential system with a parliamentarian model, as a means of "stopping the deterioration of democracy, the death culture, and the political crisis" in Guatemala.

Interviewed by NOTIMEX, the head of the Guatemalan parliament called for changes in the political system through constitutional modifications.

"The political system must be urgently opened to mend traditional institutional defects that have prevented us from achieving a national strategy that would be the core of the country's development," he added.

The reason for this, he said, is that the presidential system is a "bad copy" of the U.S. Government. It has not worked in Guatemala and has concentrated power in the presidency, thereby creating an inefficient bureaucratic apparatus, he said.

The congressman warned of the possibility of a "Caracazo" [a public uprising in Venezuela] in Guatemala because the currently existing democracy "offers the people no real expectations."

Congressman Lobo Dubon, a member of the former ruling Christian Democratic Party, maintained that in this context the current model of government is moving slowly so a new strategy must be established to decentralize power.

Lobo Dubon admitted, nevertheless, that it will be difficult to establish a new form of government because "Guatemala is an underdeveloped country with a high degree of social disorganization."

He said that a high council is required to create a strategic design that will change the currently incomplete political system.

Lobo Dubon said these changes should not be violent because the Guatemalan people, who at present are depoliticized and have a past tradition of military dictatorships, might be resentful of them.

He explained, however, that a change in the presidential system cannot be implemented until Guatemala achieves a peace agreement to end three decades of armed conflict.

A peace agreement, Lobo Dubon said, would lead to total change in the country and would bring the destruction of the national infrastructure to a screeching halt.

Referring to the role the army would play in times of peace, Lobo Dubon pointed out that it would depend on the turn of events. The army would have to play the role assigned to it in the Constitution: to defend sovereignty and contribute to the readaptation of the powerful sectors of society.

What matters the most at this time, the congressman said, is that we must reach a peace agreement with the guerrillas, although the issue does not end there. Lobo Dubon warned that if the country's economic and social imbalances are not resolved, the war will continue, perhaps under other leaders. "The war would no longer be led by guerrillas, but by extremely poor people struggling for their minimum basic right of survival," he said.

The current problem is not only the signing of papers with the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG), but the creation of conditions favorable to social change and the modification of the economic structure, he said.

Lobo Dubon trusts that the armed conflict will end within the short term with the help of Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Spain.

"Guatemala must abandon the dark tunnel of violence and gain ground in development and modernization" the congressman said.

Labor Leader Wounded in Western Guatemala

PA2602230593 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] The Labor and Popular Action Union [UASP] on 26 February reported an attack on a labor union leader in western Guatemala. The victim is Carlos (Rami) Gomez Lopez, joint secretary general of the Union of Quetzaltenango Workers and member of the National Institute of Agricultural Marketing.

Gomez Lopez was shot and wounded while traveling on an intercity bus while on his way to the capital at approximately 2200 on 25 February. According to reports from our correspondents in western Guatemala, which coincide with reports from the UASP, four hooded men intercepted the bus by shooting at the tires and shattering the windshield. They entered the bus and went to the seat in which Gomez Lopez was sitting and shot him. The bullet damaged his aorta and a kidney. The aforementioned labor union leader is in serious condition at the Totonicapan hospital.

According to reports, the assailants took a video camera and a film camera from Gomez Lopez. The cameras contained recordings and pictures of a recent visit by a multisectoral commission to a community called Quiche Resistance [Resistencia de Quiche].

Byron Morales, UASP leader, talked about the unfortunate incident in this capital.

[Begin Morales recording] We believe this is the product of more concrete actions. These actions are directly aimed at the physical integrity of our fellow labor union leaders within the context of a wave of repression, which we have been reporting for a long time. We definitively believe the Guatemalan Government is directly involved in this incident. We believe it is an institutional action carried out by the government and, therefore, we hold the government responsible. We have reported these actions to several national and international humanitarian organizations, including the UN General Assembly in Geneva [location as heard]. We also talked about this situation with the human rights ombudsman because we want him to intervene and protect the physical integrity of our fellow labor union leaders. Gomez Lopez is in serious condition, we do not know what the results will be. We are also running the risk that someone may try to murder him in the hospital or kidnap him and later murder him as has happened before on numerous occasions.

The human rights ombudsman promised to take steps before the Government Ministry, but we have also been demanding the presence of national and international humanitarian organizations so as to safeguard the integrity of our fellow labor union leader.

We believe no one can say this is a mere case of common crime because the action was directly aimed at our fellow labor union leader. The hooded individuals stopped the vehicle, boarded, and walked directly to Gomez Lopez. We believe this has very clear political connotations. We believe this is part of a repressive plan because such actions are recurrent and with great force. Proof of this is the situation experienced by the communities of resistant peoples at this time. We can also mention the incidents at the Honorable Strike Committee in Dolores [Honorable Comite de Huelga de Dolores], the accusations that were made, and the role that is being played by the Attorney General's Office, which is unfortunate.

We can also mention cases in which women from the National Commission of Guatemalan Widows are being accused of cooperating with the guerrillas. This organization is also a member of the UASP. [end recording]

Farm Workers Submit Petition to Labor Minister

PA2602141493 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Feb 93

[Text] On 23 February, the National Farm Workers Federation [Central de Trabajadores del Campo—CTC] asked the government to intervene to correct irregularities in labor-management relations on coffee farms in southern and western Guatemala. The workers staged a march to the Plaza Mayor, where they handed a petition to Labor Minister Mario Solorzano. The demonstrators denounced alleged violations of their rights by farm owners organized in the Guatemalan Chamber of Agriculture, the National Coffee Association [Anacafe], and Carcor [expansion unknown]. They asked, among other things, for the labor sector to be admitted into the Coffee Policy Council [Consejo de Politica Cafetera], which is comprised of the Agriculture, Economy, and Finance Ministries, and Anacafe. They also asked for the formation of a commission to investigate prevailing working conditions on the coffee farms and for solutions to be sought to labor-management conflicts on four farms in southern Guatemala.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified CTC representative] The CTC has reported violations of farm workers rights. Now we have come to the labor minister to ask him to demand that labor inspectors in the interior of the country not lend themselves to the manipulative and corrupt games of coffee farm owners. We will show the minister concrete evidence that two inspectors in Coatepeque, Quezaltenango Department, signed a document in an attempt to make the judge in Coatepeque believe that workers' benefits had already been paid. This action is illegal and irresponsible on the part of the labor inspectors.

We hope the minister will take action as soon as possible against those inspectors who lend themselves to the management sector's deceitful games. We urge Minister Solorzano to intervene to ensure that the constant violations of peasants' rights are solved promptly. As for Decree 68-92, which generates coffee bonuses.... [pauses] We also ask that the CTC and other similar organizations be allowed to participate in the coffee commissions so that we can make sure Guatemalan laws are complied with in the countryside. That is why I am handing this CTC petition to the minister.

[Solorzano] I acknowledge receipt of the document presented by the CTC and I want to tell you two things that I think are important. On 22 February I spoke to the Chamber of Agriculture to ask them to meet with you to talk about labor-management relations in rural areas. They accepted and I urge you to form a commission so that you can hold a first meeting at 1800 on 23 February with representatives of the Chamber and the Labor Ministry. They will listen to your demands and see what possibilities for agreement exist. [end recording]

Labor Minister Mario Solorzano reiterated on 23 February that he was not consulted on the promulgation of the government decree that limits public workers' right to strike. Solorzano talked about this with President Serrano. The publication of this decree has caused general unrest among labor sectors. Minister Solorzano spoke about the results of his meetings with President Serrano and union leaders.

[Begin Solorzano recording] The president accepted my position and agreed we should discuss the decree with the workers and review it thoroughly. The president is undoubtedly concerned and I think his concern is valid because we should start regulating the relations between state workers and the government, especially with regard to such essential areas as health, security, and any other area that involves danger to people's lives. This is the proper position. It is like this all over the world and the International Labor Organization also supports this type of regulation.

On 22 February, I met with some union leaders and we talked about the matter. They expressed their concern regarding this decree and wanted to know my position and that of the Labor Ministry. I plan to meet with the National Federation of State Workers Unions, the National Federation of Public Employees Unions, and other public workers' organizations so that we can deal with this problem, which is taking up our time when we are have much more important issues to deal with. [end recording]

Honduras

Troops Move in 'Routine Operation' To Fight Crime

PA2602141093 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1310 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] According to information received by the Voz de Honduras press department, a meeting may be under way at the Armed Forces commander in chief's headquarters. In our attempts to locate army officers, we were told that they had already left their homes and were on their way to a meeting at the commander in chief's headquarters.

During a tour of Tegucigalpa and in view of the unusual troop and tank movement, we went to the home of President Rafael Leonardo Callejas, where two tanks and security troops are stationed. We have been told that at this moment the president is preparing to leave on a trip. Everything at the president's home is normal, but that is not case in Cambosa, where military troops and tanks are stationed near Toncontin International Airport. Military vehicles with approximately 150 troops in each of them are lining the street leading to the president's residence. The troops have communications equipment. They are wearing camouflage uniforms and toting their M-16 rifles; they are on their way to an unknown destination in the capital. I reiterate that everything is normal near the president's home. We are trying to arrange an interview with the president before he leaves his home to ask him about these troops movements.

According to the information we have received, the troop movement we are seeing is a routine operation to support the public security forces in their effort to curb the wave of violence and crime that is taking place in Tegucigalpa and other parts of the country. We were informed of this by a very reliable source, who asked us to report this information to prevent nationwide fear over the troop movement in Tegucigalpa, Comayaguela, and other cities where the operation is taking place.

Our source told us: These are routine army operations to support the public security forces. We cannot report how often these operations will be carried out or the dates on which they will be carried out because we would be alerting criminals and they would cease their activities.

According to our source, the Armed Forces is carrying out routine activities in support of the public security forces to combat crime and violence in Tegucigalpa and other cities.

We are waiting for an official report from the Honduran Armed Forces regarding this military mobilization.

Callejas Explains Mobilization

PA2602142393 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1320 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Interview with President Rafael Leonardo Callejas by Dennis Moncada at his residence in Modelo neighborhood in Tegucigalpa—live]

[Text] [Announcer] Dennis Moncada, go ahead:

[Moncada] Mr. President, can you give an explanation to Voz de Honduras Network on the mobilization of troops in the capital?

[Callejas] Of course. I am surprised at your legitimate concern, but in reality, these are just operations in support of public security forces. At the request of the Presidency, these operations will be conducted in various parts of the country to stop and discourage those who wish to commit crimes.

Logically, as we want these operations to be a surprise, we carry out these operations in this manner. This operation had been planned and there will be similar operations in the future, keeping in mind the best interests of Honduran society.

We reported the operation in San Pedro Sula in advance, given the characteristics of the problem that existed there. Here in Tegucigalpa, military forces will come out every once in a while to support public security forces.

[Moncada] Mr. President, we understand that there is no operation in San Pedro Sula on 26 February.

[Callejas] No. However, there is still an army presence in San Pedro Sula. Here in Tegucigalpa, we are carrying out a larger-scale operation, despite the fact that recently, there have not been signs of violence.

[Moncada] Thank you very much, Mr. President. The president is accompanied by Congress President Rodolfo Irias Navas. He is now on his way to La Ceiba, where he will open some public works facilities.

Dear Listeners, you just heard the president's explanation on the mobilization that was launched in an effort to control violence. This explains the unusual army mobilization on the morning of 26 February. This was the explanation by the president.

We have observed that there are tanks near the airport and downtown Tegucigalpa.

Movement Termed 'Act of Intimidation'

PA2602162393 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1514 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] Political sectors have described the movement of Army troops on the main streets of Tegucigalpa as an act of intimidation against democracy. They called the military deployment in the capital a show of force.

Early on 26 February, the High Command of the Army ordered a mobilization, deploying tanks, armored vehicles, and foot troops in combat gear on the streets.

On 26 February, President Rafael Leonardo Callejas traveled to Atlantida to open various public works facilities in La Ceiba, Arizona, Tela, and San Jose de Texiguat. He was accompanied by Congress President Rodolfo Irias Navas.

CODEH Rejects Army's Explanation

PA2702203893 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1859 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 27 Feb (NOTIMEX)—The large-scale military deployment in the Honduran capital and surrounding access roads continues on 27 February for the second consecutive day after the government ordered the military operation.

Tanks and armored vehicles are stationed in downtown Tegucigalpa, following a "surprise" military deployment that caused enormous surprise among residents in the capital.

Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas said on 26 February the military operation was carried out to counter the violence that has shaken the country and to locate the people responsible for the latest criminal actions.

Security procedures around the Government House and President Callejas' residence remained normal on the evening of 26 February, military forces, but no tanks, were present.

The largest number of tanks and armored vehicles manned by soldiers with machine guns gathered around the Armed Forces General Staff headquarters, located in front of El Obelisco Park.

Politicians consulted by NOTIMEX said the militarization occurred after Armed Forces Commander General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir foiled a rebellion.

The deployment of tanks from the Armored Cavalry Regiment (Recablin), considered the most powerful battalion in the capital, has prevented the rebel actions of other military units.

According to unofficial sources, high-ranking military officers have stated their opposition to Gen. Discua following his rise to the post of Armed Forces commander.

Discua Elvir managed his reelection in 1993 after reforming the Armed Forces law, thus precluding the possibility of other officers assuming the post, even if they met all the requirements.

The newspaper TIEMPO reported on 27 February that Gen. Discua has not appeared in the last 24 hours because, according to Armed Forces spokesman Colonel Napoleon Santos Aguilar, "he is not feeling well."

Jorge Sierra, vice president of the Honduran Human Rights Committee (CODEH), termed as "ridiculous" the Armed Forces' argument that tanks had been deployed to fight thieves who steal women's gold chains and purses.

The CODEH leader said something is really taking place within the country's Armed Forces if the "real" reasons for the militarization are not announced.

Militarization Extends to 2d Largest City

PA2802182893 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1708 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 28 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Tegucigalpa continues militarized for the third consecutive day in an "operation against crime," which has extended to San Pedro Sula, the second largest city in the country.

During a tour through the main avenues in the capital, NOTIMEX was able to ascertain on 28 February that tanks, armored vehicles, and buses carrying military forces are posted in "strategic points."

Patrol cars are posted at the main streets that lead to downtown Tegucigalpa and they have been outfitted with radio communication equipment.

Local media reported the northern city of San Pedro Sula, located approximately 280 km from the capital, was also militarized "by a large number of forces and armored vehicles outfitted with cannons, much to the citizens' surprise."

In his only reference to the situation, President Rafael Leonardo Callejas said on 26 February a "surprise operation against crime" was being implemented.

Military spokesmen have ruled out the possibility of a coup d'etat or a rebellion against the military command led by Division General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir.

Local media said "the extreme military situation has reached the point where antiaircraft units have been deployed in downtown San Pedro Sula, even though the goal is to scare common criminals."

The citizens continue with their daily activities in a somewhat normal way despite the militarization.

Antiaircraft Batteries Deployed

PA2802195093 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 28 Feb 93 p 10-A

[Text] San Pedro Sula—The city was fully militarized on 27 February by a large number of military forces and antiaircraft batteries, much to the citizens' surprise—like in Tegucigalpa.

Colonel Mario Hung Pacheco, Public Security Forces (FSP) commander, traveled to the zone following the latest bloody incidents that occurred in this municipality. On this occasion, it was reported President Rafael Leonardo Callejas ordered that two battalion units be sent to reinforce the FSP soldiers.

The military forces deployed various trucks and armored vehicles manned by soldiers from the 3d Infantry Battalion and 2d Artillery Battalion in Pinalejo and Naco, and the special forces that protect the "Francisco Morazan" Hydroelectric Dam.

The military presence observed on 27 February was questioned by citizens, who sought an explanation for the militarization.

President Rafael Leonardo Callejas explained that the goal was to scare criminals, but no results have been obtained in this city, where the operations have been going on for one month.

There are still no reports about arrests in connection with the latest criminal actions, or any other criminal actions in the past.

The situation caused by the presence of the military forces was very tense because the military traveled in trucks, as well as armored vehicles outfitted with cannons.

The large amount of military forces was not restricted to the downtown area; it also included access roads and neighborhoods where no one could explain the situation.

The military situation reached the point where antiaircraft batteries were deployed to the downtown area of the city, although the goal was to scare common criminals.

Deployment Resumes After Temporary Halt

PA2802225793 Paris AFP in Spanish 2139 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 28 Feb (AFP)—Following a one-day lull, the Honduran Armed Forces resumed in Tegucigalpa on 28 February the deployment it began on 26 February, as a measure to reinforce the police, according to official information.

When the uncertainty created by the military deployment had receded, after the operation was halted on Saturday [27 February], a deployment of 10 armored personnel carriers, some jeeps, and soldiers were seen in several areas of the city patrolling the streets in groups of three and four.

The armored personnel carriers were parked near the Armed Forces General Staff building, the National Stadium, certain bridges, and other places. The military deployment was not as large as on 26 February, when 25 armored personnel carriers and a large number of military vehicles, as well as approximately 20 trucks filled with soldiers were deployed. [passage omitted]

Nicaragua

Ministry Spokeswoman Rules Out DEA Office

PA2602160693 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 25 Feb 93 p 8

[Text] The Government Ministry [Mingo] has ruled out the opening of a DEA office in Nicaragua because it is

not like opening a banana shipping company or something similar. A spokeswoman said "it is not as simple as that."

A Tegucigalpa datelined dispatch reported that the DEA officially announced that it would soon be opening an office in Nicaragua. Nicaragua is the only country in the region without a DEA office.

EL NUEVO DIARIO contacted the U.S. Embassy and was told that in Tegucigalpa it was not categorically stated that a DEA office would be opened in Managua, only that such a "possibility" existed.

No information on the topic was provided from the offices of Brigade Commander Fernando Caldera, director general of the National Police, and of Sub-Commander Johnny Muha, chief of the Drug Interdiction Department. Assistants to both officers referred EL NUEVO DIARIO to the Mingo's Public Relations Office.

There First Lieutenant Ana Maria Loredo of the Government Ministry said "I don't believe this is possible," when asked about the opening of a DEA office in Nicaragua.

Loredo added: "This cannot be viewed as the opening of a banana shipping company. It is not as simple as that."

The spokeswoman pointed out that the police created its Drug Interdiction Department led by Sub-Commander Muha for this very purpose, and said: "It is senseless to talk about a DEA office in the country when the police already have a Drug Interdiction Department."

In the Belize Declaration, the Central American presidents said that the United States has a "moral obligation" to cooperate with the fight against drug trafficking, but they do not agree to the opening of DEA offices throughout the Central American isthmus.

The Tegucigalpa dispatch points out that U.S. Embassy spokespersons confirmed that the DEA currently has offices in Honduras, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Panama, Guatemala, and Belize.

The dispatch noted that Nicaragua is bound to jointly fight drug trafficking with countries with which it has signed international cooperation agreements, such as Venezuela, Mexico, and others.

UNO Claims Government Trying To Obstruct Rally

PA2602230393 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] The Government Ministry has begun a special operation just two days before the rally to be held in Managua on 28 February. They call the operation Summer 93, and it involves setting up road blocks along the country's main roads and highways to detect and confiscate illegal weapons. Political analysts from the National Opposition Union said the road blocks are simply a way of obstructing the free flow of vehicles from the countryside into Managua to participate in the rally.

UNO Reaffirms 'Unsurrendering Will' at Rally

PA0103022793 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1740 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Statement issued by the National Opposition Union, UNO, at a rally in Managua on 28 February read by Humberto Salvador Soya Delgado, the vice president of the Conservative National Action Party and secretary of the UNO National Political Council—live]

[Text] The political parties that make up the National Opposition Union [UNO], upon the third anniversary of the electoral victory of 25 February, 1990, once more, before the Nicaraguan people and the international community, we state our basic position. We hereby express our highest patriotic spirit and reaffirm our commitment to completely and faithfully fulfill the National Salvation Government Plan. In this sense, and in accordance with the basic statements made by the UNO regarding the resolution of the integral crisis, we find it urgent to implement the following measures in the shortest time possible:

1. The Executive Branch must correct its course and carry out the promised changes.
2. The Executive Branch must move away from the cogovernment situation with the defeated party, and govern with the political forces of the UNO that brought it to power. It must make the decision to remove Antonio Lacayo Oyanguren. [shouts of he must go] He is the cause of nepotism, corruption, and cogovernment.
3. The interruption of constitutional order by the Executive Branch's actions at the National Assembly has led the country to an institutional crisis, which could spread and lead to serious and unforeseeable consequences. Hence, it is essential to restore order and respect for the government and legal order, thus guaranteeing the establishment of a state of law.
4. The Judicial and Electoral powers must be restructured to eliminate the control the Sandinist National Liberation Front holds over them and set the foundations of a state of law.
5. Municipal autonomy must be promoted, as this is the basis of our democratic system.
6. Those responsible for administrative corruption must be punished, so as to install an honest, efficient, and clear administration.
7. The property issue must be resolved, by returning assets to their legitimate owners and granting compensation when restitution is not possible.
8. The military organization law, as approved by the National Assembly, must be implemented and a civilian be appointed as defense minister in replacement of General Humberto Ortega, who must be removed.

Carrying out these actions will be the first steps toward political stability, which will allow us to generate the

social and economic measures needed to improve the conditions of every single citizen. We hereby reaffirm our unsurrendering will to aid in finding civic and peaceful solutions to our national problems, by employing viable and effective means such as national dialogue.

Issued in Managua on 28 February, 1993, UNO National Political Council. Long live the UNO. [shouts of long live the UNO]

Obando y Bravo Interviewed on UNO Activity

PA2602143393 Managua Canal Cuatro Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 25 Feb 93

["Exclusive" interview with Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo by unidentified "Extravision" newscast reporter in Managua on 24 February—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] We understand the government formally invited you to attend the activities of 25 February. Apparently you will not be able to attend. I would like to know the reasons.

[Obando y Bravo] On 23 February we received an invitation from the National Opposition Union [UNO] to attend their gathering on 28 February. UNO explained all their problems to me. I thanked UNO and told them it was advisable for laymen to try to attend this activity. They assured me there would be no violence and that they want to solve problems through political means. I am pleased there are attempts to solve problems through political means.

On the afternoon of 23 February I received a letter from President Violeta Chamorro inviting me to participate in a tour of (Camafora), if my memory serves me right. The tour would take place on a Sunday [28 February], but remember on Sunday we are dedicated to [word indistinct].

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Obando y Bravo] I was unable to grant meetings during that week. We will not be able to accompany her at that time, but hope to do so in the future.

[Reporter] Cardinal, a massacre of three peasants in Esteli was reported on 24 February. This is the second in less than 15 days. Some segments of the population think the church should speak out more clearly or vigorously condemn these sort of actions. What is your opinion?

[Obando y Bravo] The church has indeed issued vigorous statements, but certain media distort the news; they distort [word indistinct]. I read in a newspaper—if I am not wrong, two days ago: Cardinal Obando y Bravo attended the anniversary celebration of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro. In his speech he quoted statements of (Silvio Parodi) but he refused to officiate mass when Pedro Joaquin Chamorro died. I did officiate Pedro Joaquin Chamorro's mass. There are many distortions. We have spoken out and have condemned all these actions. I do not know who killed those children. I do not have any information, but we do condemn that crime, as we condemned the one against the Davila family. We have condemned actions regardless of what group is involved: Recontras, recompas, or any other organization. We have condemned them in this very place. The truth is some people do not want to accept reality. We condemn actions like these regardless of the source. No one can approve of the murder of a child.

[Reporter] Cardinal, do you not think the Church could make an effort to talk to some reporters of independent or private programs on Radio Catolica to try to reduce the tension, the political rhetoric....

[Obando y Bravo, interrupting] I would talk with Radio La Primerisima and Radio Sandino, which do terrible damage. I think this not only pertains to Radio Catolica and Radio Corporacion. I think reports must be objective and prudent. You only quote people, but other radio stations make claims and slander. Thus tension persists in society. Not only radio stations are involved, as you said.

[Reporter] Would you start with Radio Catolica, for example?

[Obando y Bravo] I have not listened to Radio Catolica a great deal, but what does it do? Denounce some injustices. That would be in line with its style. This must be, however, handled prudently, but not only by Radio Catolica. I hope Radio Ya, Radio Sandino, Radio La Primerisima, and all others would do the same. Right? [laughs]

Cosep Demands Government Change Attitude

PA2602233193 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] We have a copy of the communique issued by the Higher Council of Private Enterprise [Cosep] marking the third anniversary of the Sandinist defeat in the general elections. Among other things, Cosep says it would like to respectfully salute President Violeta Chamorro upon the anniversary of the National Opposition Union's [UNO] overwhelming victory over the Sandinist dictatorship, which brought her to the Presidency. Cosep does not wish to allow this anniversary to pass without doing its duty to point out several important issues about her job as president. There has been great progress, for example, in economic stabilization, tax reform, government and Armed Forces reduction, freedom of expression and the right to meet freely, and elimination of compulsory military service. There has been progress in liberating education from the Sandinist straight jacket.

However, Cosep is highly concerned that the government has failed to fulfill the most important task the majority of voters gave it. The government, working on its own, has stubbornly embarked on erroneous policies

of understanding with the Sandinists, which have impaired the progress of production and investment and led us to the verge of economic and social collapse.

The Cosep communique continues by saying that the council urges the president to reflect on her direct or delegated actions, and comply with the will of the majority by changing direction—a change of course that will improve our image as a nation at the national and international levels.

The demands Cosep includes in its communique marking the third anniversary of the Sandinist defeat are as follows: The government must focus its efforts on resolving the problem it caused at the National Assembly. The government must exercise its authority without further delay to ensure the Supreme Court of Justice remains a sovereign entity, independent of the political parties. The government must exercise the right it has refused to exercise until now to establish a definitive limit to the authority and permanence of General Humberto Ortega as chief of the army. It must reorganize the cabinet so it no longer reflects a preference for Sandinist militants. It must stop surrendering the property of all Nicaraguans to whatever group exerts pressure and stop sanctifying and protecting the shameful Sandinist pinata giveaway.

Cosep demands that these actions be taken immediately as a start toward proving the Violeta Chamorro administration is willing to make a change in attitude that will guide the government effort in the direction the majority of the people voted for. Cosep maintains that if this does not occur, there will be no progress, no investment, and no production, due to the atmosphere of mistrust the government will have created by projecting an image of surrender and submittal to the losing party, in detriment to its electors. Cosep reaffirms its total willingness to contribute to the well-being of the economy, as long as it is allowed to carry out its work in an appropriate environment.

Issued by Cosep in Managua on 25 February, 1993.

Chamorro Makes Anniversary Speech in Camoapa

PA2602190993 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1846 GMT 25 Feb 93

[Speech delivered by President Violeta Chamorro on 25 February in Camoapa, Chontales Department—live]

[Excerpts] Camoapa Mayor Jorge Duarte; Mario Aragon Marin, president of the Association of Cattle Ranchers of Camoapa; mayors and councilmen of the Boaco, Chontales, and Zelaya Departments; friends of Camoapa and of the Boaco, Chontales, and Zelaya Departments; special guests; journalists; friends of the Nicaraguan Resistance who are here with us, all of us Nicaraguans; [applause] and dear Nicaraguan people:

I am very happy to be with you this afternoon, friends of Camoapa, capital of Nicaraguan cattle ranching. [applause]

I am here as president of all Nicaraguans and as a cattle rancher myself because I have lived in the world of cattle ranching since my childhood. This has helped me understand the men of the field who love our land deeply.

However, above all things, I am here as a Nicaraguan who honestly loves her people and her country, and on this date on which we celebrate the third anniversary of the installation of democracy in Nicaragua. [applause]

Some people have asked me why we have come to celebrate this important date here in Camoapa. I have told them that Camoapa and its people, besides being faithful followers of Nicaraguan religious and social traditions, are an example for all of our country. [applause] Camoapa is an example of work, concerted effort, and reconciliation. When it comes to doing something for the benefit of the people, they do it shoulder to shoulder, setting aside all partisan or ideological differences. [passage omitted]

My dear friends of Camoapa, Nicaraguans all, when I ended my campaign in the city of Boaco on 10 February 1990, I said there was no room for war and hatred in Nicaragua. [applause]

Although the war has been halted, there still are isolated individuals and groups who are calling for a resumption of the war and sadness and for continued confrontation. I must tell you my friends, especially those of you who voted for me three years ago, who trusted Violeta, that you must not be deceived by individuals who promote uprisings, who want to destroy my government, who preach hatred and do not want democracy to be consolidated in Nicaragua. Unfortunately, there are radical forces that have not learned from history that they must love our fatherland in democracy. [applause]

No one can deny that in Nicaragua, democracy is moving forward; slowly perhaps but surely, and encountering many problems and stumbling blocks. However, no one will impede democracy because three years ago the Nicaraguan people sealed their democratic pledge of progress, peace, and freedom. [applause, people shouting long live Violeta.]

There are times when some people seem to be calling for the eye for an eye and tooth for a tooth law, disregarding the Christian mandates of forgiveness and reconciliation. The National Opposition Union parties and Sandinist National Liberation Front should take advantage of this national celebration to decide once and for all on the constructive path of reconciliation and tolerance.

For some time, my government has been holding serious meetings and dialogue with various social sectors and leaders of political parties, labor unions, and private sectors, in an attempt to find adequate solutions for

problems such as the crisis at the National Assembly, the property issue, and other important national issues.

My government will not abandon its efforts and promises to find a way to better solutions and dialogue. To this end, I must ask all Nicaraguan political forces on either side of the issues to devote themselves to the reconstruction of our Nicaragua. I must ask politicians to act responsibly and cease their mutual attacks and threats, thereby helping to relax the political atmosphere and avoiding further damage to our image abroad. To consolidate peace we must work together for Nicaragua, as the residents of Camoapa have done. It is the only way to promote production, generate more jobs, and improve the standard of living for all Nicaraguans.

I believe we Nicaraguans are suffering too much to engage in such excesses as fighting among ourselves, allegedly for the fatherland's good. The truth is that sometimes people fight only for their own interests. In my electoral speech on 10 January 1990 in Boaco, I thanked you and told you: receive the affection of this woman who will never disappoint you. Today, I repeat those words, and I urge you to trust Violeta because I will never abandon the struggle for democracy. I know this is a very difficult task and that it is difficult to govern in a country that is divided and in disagreement, but my patriotic pledge, my pledge to the fatherland and democracy is firm. I chose to devote myself in body and soul to my suffered Nicaraguan people, a great people, a noble peace-loving people who are represented here, and I repeat, you must have faith; you can rest assured that I will never fail Nicaragua. [applause]

In conclusion, I wish to thank you for this lovely Camoapa hat that was made by hard-working hands. These hats should be sold all over the world because they are an example. I would also like to thank you for this welcome, and for standing in the sun with me, but the sun will give us vigor and energy. Thank you all, my dear friends.

Government Issues Communique on Governors' Dispute

PA2702201793 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Communique issued by the Government Ministry Public Relations and Press Directorate in Managua; date not given]

[Text] The Government Ministry of the Republic of Nicaragua reports to the Nicaraguan people:

1. The North Atlantic Regional Autonomous Council elected Alfonso Smith Warman to the post of governor in sessions held on 23 and 24 November 1992.

2. Mr. Leonel Panting Wilson filed a writ on 15 December 1992 at the Sixth Regional Court of Appeals in Matagalpa, rejecting Mr. Smith Warman's election. The Supreme Court of Justice has yet to issue a ruling on the case.

3. Mr. Alfonso Smith Warman will remain as governor of the North Atlantic Autonomous Region—with all the rights and duties stated in Law No. 28 of the Nicaraguan North Atlantic Autonomous Region Statutes until the Supreme Court of Justice issues a definite ruling to settle the dispute.

Consequently, civilian, military, and religious authorities are asked to provide all their cooperation to Mr. Alfonso Smith Warman to restore institutional order in the region.

[Signed] Government Ministry Public Relations and Press Directorate

President Chamorro Issues Decree on Tax Extensions

PA2702010793 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Feb 93

["Text" of Decree No. 18-93 issued by President Violeta Chamorro in Managua on 24 February—read by announcer]

[Text]

Decree No. 18-93.

The president of the Republic of Nicaragua:

Whereas:

The Confederation of Chambers of Commerce of Nicaragua and the Nicaraguan Association of Auto Dealers [Asociacion Nicaraguense de Distribuidores de Vehiculos Automotores] Andiva, with the support of the National Economic and Social Agreements, faced with the need for the government to grant them minimum fiscal benefits, have requested the temporary nonapplication of the special tax on the consumption of luxury items included in the inventories of vehicles and electrical appliances as of 10 January 1993 as well as the orders made on that same date. The government deems this request as reasonable.

Therefore, using the powers granted by the Constitution, the president issues the following decree to extend the application of the special tax on the consumption of luxury items.

Article 1

To extend until 30 June 1993 the application of the special tax on the consumption of luxury items, IBS, as established by Presidential Decree No. 793 on existing inventories on 10 January 1993 as well as the orders made on that same date for the following items: color television sets, video equipment, audio equipment, refrigerators over 11 cubic feet, washing machines, and vehicles.

Article 2

The extension of the application of the IBS over the items mentioned in the previous article is subject to the compliance of the measures of control and verification dictated by the Finance Ministry for this purpose. If the Finance Ministry detects irregularities or violations by the beneficiaries of this extension, such as the transfer of the IBS to the sale of other products or the alteration of the tax application to the detriment of the consumer, the Ministry may then apply the tax immediately regardless of any sanctions that may be imposed for the violations of the tax laws that may be committed.

Article 3

The current decree will be in force as soon as it is published by any media regardless of its subsequent publication in the Official Gazette.

[Issued] 24 February 1993, Presidential Palace, Managua
[Signed] Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, president of the Republic of Nicaragua

Compensation Process for Confiscations Initiated

PA2602211193 Managua Canal Cuatro Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] On 26 February, the Finance Ministry initiated the compensation process for persons whose properties were confiscated with the delivery of a 12-million cordoba bond. Today compensation bonds were delivered to families at the Finance Ministry's installations who were affected by the Sandinist government's confiscation process. The first bond was delivered to the Arauz family who had six properties worth 7,500 manzanas confiscated. This first bond is worth 12.6 million cordobas. Aida Maria Heredia [not further identified] explained the bonds' value and use.

[Begin Heredia recording] These bonds can be endorsed or transferred by simple endorsement. They maintain their value and have a [number indistinct] percent interest rate. The bonds are backed up by state assets. They have a real value. These bonds can be invested to help Nicaragua's reactivation and growth. [end recording]

This first bond initiates the delivery process of 500 million cordobas that the Finance Ministry will grant in compensation.

Revision of CIAV-OAS Mission Deemed Necessary

PA2702144393 Managua EL SEMANARIO in Spanish 25 Feb-4 Mar 93 p 2

[Article by Orlando Castillo Estrada]

[Text] During an impromptu news conference with domestic and foreign reporters, General Humberto Ortega and Dr. Santiago Murray, coordinator of the CIAV-[International Commission of Support and Verification] OAS, announced some points of agreement they had reached during a meeting requested by Dr. Murray after "consulting with Washington."

We have reviewed the work of the CIAV, Ortega said while referring to "irregularities that have come up in the past." To this effect, he reaffirmed what he said on 22 February at the National Assembly Defense Commission when he referred to the irregularities in the action of some CIAV officials. Using a military term, the general insisted on the need "to review" some problems in order to correct them. He also announced the need for a meeting chaired by the Presidency and the Foreign Ministry to revise the work of the CIAV. Gen. Ortega also opined that the CIAV term should be extended, as it expires in June. He feels there are problems with some officials of those organizations because of their different ways of thinking. The CIAV mission should be clarified, he insisted.

Speaking along the same terms as Gen. Ortega, Murray pointed out that an evaluation of some officials is under way, particularly in the case of those operating in Esteli. The CIAV coordinator said it will be up to the Nicaraguan authorities to decide on extending the mission. Summarizing the meeting, Gen. Ortega said that an analysis had been made to improve the work of the CIAV and prevent any tactical faults.

Disarmament Brigade on Seizure of Large Arsenal

PA2802041293 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 27 Feb 93 p 2

[Text] Matagalpa, (Moises Castillo)—The Special Disarmament Brigade (BED) began its "Summer 93 Plan" with the seizure of a large number of weapons and ammunition. The plan will continue through 25 April—the third anniversary of President Violeta Chamorro's electoral victory.

Major Ivan Portocarrero, the deputy chief of the BED, presented 3,000 rifles, 389 grenades, 18 rocket launchers, eight pieces of artillery, five machine guns, 100 mines, and 125 kg of explosives to the media. The brigade collected the materiel in exchange for food. The brigade has established 35 weapons trading posts throughout the countryside, and is giving 400 cordobas, or its equivalent in staple food items, for each rifle it receives.

Captain Giovani Perez, a brigade officer, said that the majority of the weaponry has been turned over in Jinotega and the urban area of Matagalpa. The majority of the people have turned over their weapons voluntarily, while force was used in other cases.

Maj. Portocarrero also reported that rebel leader El Suicida and 11 of his men surrendered their weapons and materiel on 24 February.

The brigade is currently holding talks with recompas leaders Cara de Malo and Guachara in San Pedro, Rio Blanco. These men could surrender their weapons within days.

The officer pointed out that the Italian Government's $1.7 million in aid will be used for microenterprise development in Regions 2, 5, and 6 in order to benefit those citizens who are willing to lay down their weapons and work for peace.

Argentina

Menem Signs Constitutional Reform Decree

PY2602144093 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 25 Feb 93 p 12

[Text] Yesterday President Carlos Menem signed a decree empowering Congress to debate the reform of the Constitution, thus taking the first formal step toward his standing for reelection.

The government thus replied to the Justicialist Senators bloc which a few days ago officially submitted the request to Presidential Secretary General Eduardo Bauza.

Besides the signing of Decree No. 298, other steps were taken toward the constitutional reform. Interior Minister Gustavo Beliz had lunch with a group of governors of provincial parties, with whom he analyzed the issue.

At the Coat of Arms Hall of the Interior Ministry, Beliz met with the Chaco Governor Rolando Tauguinas, Neuquen Governor Jorge Sobisch, Salta Governor Roberto Ulloa, and Tierra del Fuego Governor Jose Estabillo.

The announcement of the signing of the decree, which was also signed by Beliz, was the culmination of the efforts to reach a consensus with provincial parties. The Senate Justicialist bloc, which is heading the reform and reelection effort, yesterday met for the first time to analyze the issue.

The decree submitted by the executive branch to Congress provides for "a partial reform of the Constitution." This is the legal precondition for calling a special period of sessions so that the Senate can decide—if the deadlines set by the government party are to be met—before the end of such period of special sessions.

CNEA Official Denies Greenpeace Report

PY2602211093 Buenos Aires PAGINA/12 in Spanish 30 Jan 93 p 11

[Text] Dan Beninson, executive board member of the National Commission for Atomic Energy (CNEA), has confirmed that engineer Juan Carlos Duarte, director of the Atucha-1 nuclear plant, is leaving his post. But he explained that the reason for his departure is not linked to the incident that occurred 15 days ago.

In an interview with PAGINA/12, Beninson, who has a doctorate's in applied physics, denied the Greenpeace version of the incident. He insisted that, first, the breaking of a valve in the security system being tested and, second, a malfunction in a transformer were the two independent problems that have prevented putting the reactor in operation since then. Beninson also said the CNEA knew Duarte was leaving for Romania, where he will be in charge of putting the Cernavoda plant into operation. As reported by this daily, Duarte will be replaced by Miguel Joseph, who was working in the Embalse nuclear plant in Cordoba.

Extradition of Syrian Arms Smuggler Granted

PY2502174293 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1603 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] Madrid, 24 Feb (AFP-NA)—The Spanish National Hearings Court [Audiencia Nacional Espanola] (the top Spanish judicial organization) on Wednesday granted the extradition of Syrian citizen Monzer al Kasar to Argentina where he is wanted for forgery. He is accused by the Argentine court of having illegally obtained Argentine nationality according to a ruling in Madrid by the National Hearings Court.

The extradition ruling states that the transfer of the Syrian arms trafficker to Argentina will not take place until he serves his sentence in Spain.

Monzer al Kasar could also be accused in Madrid of piracy and conspiracy in the murder of U.S. citizen Leon Klinghoffer in 1985 during the abduction of the Italian ship Achile Lauro.

During the proceedings for his extradition, Monzer al Kasar alleged that his Argentine nationality was granted by President Menem. The National Audiences Court stated that this must be considered by the Argentine courts.

Bolivia

MacLean Issues Letter on Talks With Chile

PY2602162093 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2043 GMT 25 Feb 93

[Text] La Paz, 25 Feb (EFE)—Bolivian Foreign Minister Ronald MacLean has stated that trade negotiations with Chile "do not replace, modify, or change" Bolivia's strategic and irrevocable objective of obtaining "an outlet to the Pacific Ocean."

In a letter to EL DIA newspaper from Santa Cruz, MacLean stated that the trade negotiations that were resumed today in Santiago are based on "this condition, which was formally conveyed to the Chilean Government."

The eight-point letter was published on a full page of the newspaper. It states that the same spirit prevailed during the negotiations on the border demarcation, cooperation for drug enforcement, and the control of bilateral air traffic.

This approach to Chile, which MacLean describes as a "partial effort," seeks to "create the atmosphere and the appropriate conditions for Bolivia and Chile to confront the unavoidable need to solve Bolivia's landlocked situation."

Bolivia has been enclosed by mountains and the Amazon jungle since it lost its coast during a war with Chile. It has tried to regain an outlet to the sea for a century.

During the mid-1990's, representatives from Bolivia and Chile began a series of conversations to solve pending bilateral issues, including border demarcation, and the increasing bilateral trade exchange.

The Bolivian political opposition and high-ranking military officers harshly criticized the government's attempt to approach Chile. They have conditioned any type of dialog to the solution of the landlocked situation.

The letter says: "The Bolivian Government's decision to promote these negotiations is based on the attempt to find formulas to improve trade relations with Chile."

The letter justifies these trade negotiations with Chile, stating that they are part of a "global trade negotiations strategy with all ALADI [Latin American Integration Association] member countries" within a framework of the new economic models of free markets and of Latin American integration efforts.

Bolivia is negotiating similar economic integration accords with Mexico, Uruguay, and Argentina, free zone bilateral trade with Peru, and an agreement that is being promoted with its Cartagena Accord counterparts.

MacLean said the explanation by the Foreign Ministry to the newspaper seeks "to strengthen the necessary local consensus that must endorse the negotiation" conducted by this ministry.

He finally emphasized the importance of "enhancing ideas that support the negotiations of major issues for the country, like the need to achieve the strategic objective of an outlet to the sea."

Bolivia and Chile broke off diplomatic relations in 1962. Between 1975 and 1978 unsuccessful efforts were made to overcome Bolivia's landlocked situation.

Population Against Trade Relations with Chile

PY2602143093 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] An opinion poll conducted by La Hora del Pais newscast program in La Paz has revealed that 85 percent of those surveyed reject the government's attempt to establish trade relations with Chile. They said that any rapprochement with Chile must be subject to a maritime negotiation.

The Chilean Foreign Ministry has reportedly told the Chilean press that President Aylwin might be arranging a meeting with Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora.

Rumors of Zamora Meeting With Chilean Leader Denied

PY2602194693 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] Bolivian Foreign Ministry sources have denied a probable meeting between the Bolivian and Chilean presidents. Some political leaders believe that the Bolivian demand for an outlet to the sea cannot be ignored.

Rumors gained strength during the past few hours about a possible meeting between Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora and Chilean President Patricio Aylwin. This rumor, however, caused unrest in various Bolivian circles.

Oscar Eid Franco, acting president of the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] New Majority faction, was asked about the issue.

[Begin Eid Franco recording] Our landlocked situation is one of the most sacred subjects of Bolivian foreign policy. This subject is handled by the president of the Republic and the Foreign Ministry, but, from the political point of view, I think there is no reason for a meeting if an issue such as our landlocked situation is not the key issue of such a meeting. I believe this is the feeling of the great majority, the government, the Patriotic Accord, and all the political parties. This subject should be one of the key issues, if not the key issue, of a meeting of this nature in order to justify it. The other actions being taken already have been justified or explained by the government authorities, but a meeting of this nature can only be justified if Bolivia's landlocked situation is the key issue of it. [end recording]

Conscience of Fatherland Ticket Starts Campaign

PY2602204193 Santa Cruz EL MUNDO in Spanish 13 Feb 93 p 6

[Excerpt] Carlos Palenque, presidential hopeful for the Conscience of the Fatherland [CONDEPA], yesterday presented Ivo Kuljis, a young businessman from Santa Cruz de la Sierra, as his running mate for the vice presidency. With this presentation Palenque started his electoral campaign in Santa Cruz with a crowded gathering termed historic by the main leaders of CONDEPA, Community, Change, and Integration, and the recently created Unity and Progress Movement [Movimiento Unidad y Progreso].

After presenting his running mate, Carlos Palenque said his party and the Unity and Progress Movement agree on the need to promote a true economic and moral revolution in the country and to assure Bolivians a participatory democracy. The gathering started with the singing of the national anthem.

Palenque, in justifying his partnership with the young businessman from Santa Cruz, said the neoliberal model must be changed and poverty eliminated from Bolivia in

order to prevent the destruction of the national productive apparatus. [passage omitted]

Six New Supreme Court Justices Sworn In

PY2602204893 La Paz LA RAZON in Spanish 19 Feb 93 pp A8, A9

[Excerpt] Sucre—Six new justices who enjoy the confidence of the president of the Republic and Congress, yesterday accepted the challenge of modernizing the judicial branch by promising to abide by the Constitution and the laws during a solemn ceremony at the historic House of Freedom, where President Jaime Paz promulgated the new Judicial Organization law.

As scheduled, President Jaime Paz Zamora; Luis Ossio, vice president of the Republic and Congress President; the presidents of the two houses of Congress, Guillermo Fortun and Gaston Encinas; ministers of state; and other special guests attended the event.

Supreme Court of Justice President Edgar Oblitas Fernandez, in compliance with the law, swore in the following new justices: Oscar Hassenteufel Salazar, Guillermo Arancibia Lopez, Luis Adolfo Siles Salinas, Carlos Azad Arce, Hugo Cesar Cadima Maldonado, and Antonio Salazar Soriano. Luis de La Reza, another justice elected to represent Cochabamba district, was not at the ceremony because he had resigned his appointment for personal reasons.

The aforementioned justices will replace the following ones, who have fulfilled their constitutional term: Hugo Galindo Decker, Julio Urquizu Gutierrez, Jose Decker Morales, Adan Soria Diez Canseco, Mario Castellanos Ossio, and Hugo Salvatierra Oporto. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Government Defines Economic Measures

PY2702174093 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 Feb 93 Economic Section p 3

[Article by Ribamar Oliveira]

[Text] Brasilia—The government has already defined at least three measures of the economic stabilization program: a reduction of $2.5 billion in the union's 1993 budget; the use of $4 billion to redeem the foreign debt notes that expire in 1993, and to place in the market notes backed by the country's international reserves.

Government sources said yesterday that the other measures involve a series of alternatives still being evaluated. The measures that have not yet received a consensus include the proposal to use the exchange variation as the economy's leading reference index.

The plans to reduce the 1993 budget have not even been approved by Congress, but this reduction will be necessary because at the time of approving the fiscal reform congress conditioned the approval to allocating part of the resources that will result from the Provisional Tax on Financial Operations [IPMF] collection to certain areas. Negotiations in this regard resulted in the allocation of 20 percent of the IPMF revenue to the construction of cheap homes and 18 percent to education. The government has accepted these conditions but to compensate for them it plans to deduct an equal amount from the funds the government voluntarily transfers to the government of the states and counties.

Finance Minister Paulo Haddad has decided already that he will use nearly $4 billion to redeem the federal public debt that becomes due this year, which totals 50 percent of the overall amount of debt certificates that become due in 1993. Haddad planned to use 50 percent of the money obtained from the IPMF to redeem the public debt. As Congress did not agree, the minister decided to adopt the alternative solution of reducing the budget.

Renegotiation

The government will also renegotiate the public debt by exchanging the current certificates for others backed by the countries'international reserves. The process will be similar to the one adopted in the renegotiation of the foreign debt. On their maturity date, the market will exchange these certificates—on a voluntary basis—for other certificates with a longer term. The idea is to use nearly $4 billion of the country's international reserves to do so.

The economic team is convinced that it will not be possible to reduce inflation without a "blow" in the market expectations. However, there is no consensus about the alternative to be adopted. One group supports the idea of using the exchange rate oscillation as the economy's general index, the famous "anchor" called for by the economists. Some are resisting this idea because it would imply modifying the Constitution. Another group supports the idea of preestablishing prices and salaries through a monthly reducer. Minister Haddad hopes to decide in March which path to tread.

Franco Says No Economic Package Formulated Yet

PY2802214493 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] President Itamar Franco has stated that the country can no longer endure the high inflation rate for another three or four months. He talked with journalists for more than one hour.

Today the president avoided talking at the reception desk. He decided to invite journalists to a meeting in his office on the third floor, but he did not allow them to take cameras or recorders.

He addressed economic issues during the meeting that lasted one hour and 20 minutes. As for a report on an economic package, he said that no package can be

released to the public without the president's knowledge. He said [Finance Minister] Haddad has not formulated any package.

Asked about a possible high inflation rate that may extend up to 90 days, he said the country cannot endure high inflation for another three or four months and a solution has to be found.

Concerning the finance minister's remarks that three months are needed to try curbing inflation, he said that needing three months does not mean he will get it. In response to his remarks that inflation will not drop within 90 days, the president said: For God's sake, minister, do not talk about that. Concerning the finance minister's dismissal, the president said it is not the president who will oust the finance minister but inflation.

The president asked the finance minister to be creative and suggested that he not always maintain the same position, and mentioned the story of the parrot that balances on a single foot. The president cast doubts on the statement that the adoption of shock measures in the economy is worthless. He noted that prominent economists like former Minister Mario Henrique Simonsen already have endorsed a selective control of prices in the economy. Despite this, the president denied he is considering a possible control of prices. He said he still expects Minister Haddad to implement a plan that does not include frozen or fixed prices, or any other shock measure.

Haddad said in Belo Horizonte that he is not preparing any economic package and that all anti-inflation measures will be submitted to President Itamar Franco.

[Begin Haddad recording] What is being done is to adopt a package of measures aimed at stabilizing the Brazilian economy without breaking contractual relations, without shocks and surprises for the population. Before new money and exchange currencies measures are announced, they first will be submitted to the president, who will decide whether he agrees with their implementation within 90 days. [end recording]

Government Preparing Expense Control Program

PY2702140293 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 Feb 93 p 5

[Article by Vannildo Mendes]

[Excerpt] Brasilia—Convinced that the fiscal reform will not be enough to ensure the resources required to resume economic development, the government is preparing a broad expense control program to be implemented before June. As a result of this program, the government hopes to save $10 billion, which is 50 percent more than the revenue expected from the Provisional Tax on Financial Operations.

The program contemplates a campaign to fight corruption in government purchases, the transfer to state and county governments of expenses unduly paid by the federal government, and the rationalization of government expenses in general. To this extent, the Federal Administration Secretariat [SAF] is drafting a bill establishing strict rules to guide government expenses and a more precise payment schedule.

The bill will be sent to Congress with a request for its urgent approval. In SAF Minister Luiza Erundina's opinion, this bill will represent "a hard blow to the suppliers' cartels" that have been established around the government. [passage omitted]

Itamar 'Dissatisfied' With Performance of Haddad

PY2702130293 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 Feb 93 p 3

[Excerpts] Brasilia—President Itamar Franco is dissatisfied with Finance Minister Paulo Haddad's delay in presenting a study for the confiscation of all the bank accounts opened in the names of phantoms. The minister's reluctance to comply with this petition from the president, as learned by O ESTADO at the beginning of this month, could serve as the final pretext for a break between Itamar and Haddad. This was reported by a close friend of the president of the Republic, who frequently visits Franco in Planalto Palace.

Regarding this news, Senator Jarbas Passarinho said: "Haddad has already said that he will not take a third scolding from Itamar, and that the dispute over cutting three zeros from the cruzeiro was the second dispute."

The president also made statements contradicting Haddad about the control of the economy through the interest rate policy. Concerned with the acceleration of the inflation rate at the end of January, Haddad announced the possibility of authorizing the Central Bank to increase the interest rates, an assertion that was then denied by Itamar who, a day later, confirmed Haddad in his post: "If there was a problem between us he would not be finance minister," the president stated.

To some interlocutors, Itamar made parallel comparisons between the performance of Haddad and former Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira. Itamar is also reportedly annoyed for not being able to announce a reduction in inflation since he came to power. [passage omitted]

Three government officials confirmed that on 30 January Haddad presented his resignation to Itamar, who accepted it. The president, however, changed his mind because he considered the timing was wrong for cabinet changes since at the time the dollar exchange rate had climbed. Haddad then received another opportunity to launch his program to combat inflation.

Now, with the worsening of the economic situation, President Itamar again made comments on his dissatisfaction with the finance minister. He has allegedly commented that he is waiting for a new letter of resignation from Haddad as soon as he returns from Espirito Santo. For advisers to the minister, the new currency issue was another signal for Haddad.

Chile

Police Report Many MAPU-Lautaro Group Leaders in Jail

PY2702141093 Santiago LA NACION in Spanish 19 Feb 93 pp 2, 3

[Report by Jaime Valdes]

[Excerpts] The last meeting held by all members of the political committee of the MAPU [United Popular Action Movement]- Lautaro as free citizens was at the El Tabo summer resort in November 1991.

At that time it was agreed to continue attacking "the rule of law" and to resume actions geared to obtain resources. The group is now engaged in desperate acts.

Getting money is one of the objectives; another is to boost the morale of a group made up of no more than 80 members, 60 percent of whom have already been identified; and to crown it all, there are more than 90 behind bars.

The meeting held at El Tabo by the 10 members of the MAPU-Lautaro political committee was presided over by its top leader and secretary general, Guillermo Ossandon Canas, better known as "Diego Carvajal," even though his subordinates call him "Gustavo Pizarro."

Most of the members of the group have met each other again in jail. Of those who were present at El Tabo, only three are missing, though they have been identified.

The first member of the political committee who was arrested following the aforementioned meeting—two months later—was Bernardo Acevedo Lagos, who was second to Ossandon Canas at that time. He passed himself off as "Marcos," but he was known as "The Mexican."

As if fate would have cursed that post, all the subsequent MAPU- Lautaro members that held that post have been held in custody, either at the General Mackenna barracks or the Agustinas barracks, where the Dipolcar [Carabineros Intelligence Directorate] usually conducts its interrogations.

The first to follow in Acevedo's footsteps was Victor Gonzalez Gonzalez, better known as "Braulio." Next came Ramon Escobar Diaz, alias "el Vitoco," who trained with the elite group of the Lautaro Popular Liberation Forces (FRPL).

Now it was Claudio Melgarejo Chavez's turn, who used several aliases such as "Vicente," "Francisco," and "Marcial." Carabineros hope that once he recovers from the bullet wounds he received when he was leading the gang that tried to hold up the Santander Bank he will be in a position to provide the information they still lack after he is taken into custody for the crimes for which he was implicated. [passage omitted]

The only members of the political committee present at the aforementioned meeting who are still at large are Delfin Diaz, alias "Ernesto," a member of the FRPL leadership, and three others whose aliases are "Oscar," "Simon," and "Pablo."

These are the top leaders who have stepped into the breach. There is also another one, who trained in El Salvador and is known as "Roberto," although his real name is Leopoldo Luna Soto. These are the leaders that allow the subversive group to keep going. The police believe, however, that the group has reached a "terminal crisis."

Government Seeks Injunction Against Lautaro Group Leader

PY2702153193 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Interior Under Secretary Belisario Velazco has reported that Interior Ministry attorneys acting on behalf of the government have sought an injunction against Claudio Melgarejo Chavez on charges of illicit association and terrorist homicide. Melgarejo, who was arrested when trying to rob a branch of the Santander Bank, is considered one of the top leaders of the Lautaro group.

[Begin Velazco recording] The Interior Ministry will have the law on its side against those who insist on disregarding the government ordinances. We believe that law and order constitute the underlying principles for our country to develop and grow. This view is shared by workers and, indeed, all Chilean citizens. [end recording]

Former Dina Director Blames CIA, DISIP For Letelier Killing

PY2602141093 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 2330 GMT 25 Feb 93

[Report by Antonio Quinteros from Puerto Montt]

[Text] General Manuel Contreras arrived at the Puerto Montt Appellate Court today at about 1100. He must periodically sign in at this court because he is on parole.

Loquacious, the former Dina [National Intelligence Directorate] director discussed various issues.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] [question indistinct]

[Contreras] So that no one will believe I do not want to testify. I have privilege. I have this right and I have the option of renouncing or maintaining it.

[Reporter] General, in his testimony, Brigadier Espinoza states that you issued all the orders when you were the Dina director.

[Contreras] I was the one who issued all the orders when I was the Dina director? That is true.

[Reporter] This is like holding you responsible. What is your opinion about this?

[Contreras] This is the way Marxists interpret it. It is normal for them to interpret it this way because they are always trying to belie everyone so that things will be turned around. Lie, lie, that is always their way.

[Reporter] What can you tell us about the death threats that you have received, general?

[Contreras] I received them by phone but I do not attach great importance to this type of threat because I have been the target of 20 attacks. At my age, will I attach any importance to a threat?

[Reporter] Then why is it being used to justify that you...?

[Contreras, interrupting] No. It is not being used to justify anything. No, no, no. It merely mentioned, in passing, that I have a right to justice. And, as I have a right to justice, I have a right to testify, according to the law, where I reside.

[Reporter] I beg your pardon, general, but in your heart, do feel innocent or guilty?

[Contreras] I am absolutely innocent like all Dina personnel.

[Reporter] Are you sorry about any action that you carried out as Dina director, general?

[Contreras] I have never felt sorry about anything I did in my life. The judge is hearing the case in accordance with the law.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Contreras] I have not said anything. I was in charge of a directorate that was called Dina which was directly subordinated to the Government Junta. I discharged the duties assigned by law to the Dina. The objective was to gather information in the economic, political, foreign, and domestic fields to help the government in its national development and national security policies. Thus far, I do not know anyone who has committed any crimes on orders issued by the Dina director.

[Reporter] What about the case of the missing people?

[Contreras] What missing people are you talking about?

[Reporter] The people who were detained by the Dina and subsequently disappeared...

[Contreras, interrupting] Are you sure that this was so?

[Reporter] It was mentioned during the court investigations.

[Contreras] Yeah, it could be mentioned in many places, but can it be proved.

[Reporter] The Rettig report mentions some specific cases.

[Contreras] Do you believe an incomplete report in which only Marxists and not the people were supposed to testify?

[Reporter] Are you saying, general, that Dina personnel had nothing to do with the missing people?

[Contreras] Dina personnel had nothing to do with the missing people. I have not paid anything, except for (?Exprinter) for trips made by Dina people, who conducted security activities, to carry out their missions.

[Reporter] What do you think is the origin of all these events in which you are involved, general? Why do you think your name appears in the headlines?

[Contreras] The Marxists want revenge for what we did during the military government when we pacified this country. We want to prevent a repetition because, as the interior minister said yesterday, extremism has still not been controlled. We managed to control it.

[Reporter] Do you believe the investigations conducted by Judge Banados will reveal the truth, general?

[Contreras] I hope so.

[Reporter] Do you fully exempt yourself...?

[Contreras, interrupting] Of course. Orlando Letelier's assassination was committed by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency—the CIA—and the Venezuelan Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services, DISIP. The CIA was interested in eliminating Mr. Letelier because it considered him a threat to the United States. First, because Mr. Letelier, as certified by the appropriate documents, had installed about 400 Marxists in various posts. The Dina merely pacified this country. I have devoted my life in the service of my fatherland. Military officers receive orders from their commanders throughout their entire careers.

[Reporter] Do you keep in touch with General Pinochet?

[Contreras] We keep in touch. We meet at military ceremonies and other military activities. [end recording]

General Manuel Contreras left the Puerto Montt Appellate Court about noon. He did not specify when he would go to Santiago to testify before Judge Banados.

Aylwin Asked To Block Vote Against Cuba at UN

PY2702022793 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] The House of Friendship with Cuba has asked President Patricio Aylwin to instruct the foreign minister to abstain from voting or to vote in favor of Cuba in the designation of a special human rights observer at the United Nations.

In a press communique, the House of Friendship with Cuba has stated that the conclusion of the investigations of alleged human rights violations in Cuba is part of the U.S.' anti-Cuba policy. It is also a motivation for the United States to justify military aggression against a Central American nation.

The House of Friendship with Cuba has stated that Cuba has systematically collaborated with the UN secretary general and the different procedures concerning human rights.

Krauss Requests Information on Paraguayan Secret Archives

PY2602204493 Santiago LA NACION in Spanish 13 Feb 93 p 93

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Enrique Krauss disclosed yesterday that he is asking the Paraguayan Government for the Paraguayan secret police documents found recently near Asuncion to learn about the importance these documents' contents may have for Chile.

Information contained in the documents reveals the link the military regimes maintained during the 70's to exchange information about leftist and guerrilla groups that operated at that time and also to arrest the members of said groups who tried to dodge the security organizations by changing countries.

The cooperation network, known as "Operation Condor," was responsible for the disappearance of many people whose whereabouts might be revealed with the discovery of the Paraguayan secret police archives.

In Santiago, Krauss said the government has not received this information officially, "therefore, we are requesting concrete and objective information to learn what the documents consist of, what their scope is, before giving an opinion." [passage omitted]

Economic Pact With Venezuela; Stance on Cuba Noted

PY2702015393 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Report by Carmen Castro]

[Text] Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma stated that an economic complementation agreement between Chile and Venezuela will be signed in Santiago on 2 April. Silva Cimma said this agreement will be positive for national interests.

Concerning the round of talks to sign a similar economic complementation agreement with Bolivia that began in Santiago yesterday, Silva Cimma said the discussions are intense but an agreement will be reached. The foreign minister also expressed hope that this agreement will be signed during the meeting of Rio Group foreign ministers in the Bolivian town of Santa Cruz on 4 and 5 April. He said he will chair this meeting in his role as coordinator of the group throughout this year.

The foreign minister said that although the agreement seeks to reduce the current trade imbalance that is highly favorable to Chile, with exports amounting to $150 million and imports amounting to only $20 million, it will not jeopardize Chilean interests because it will promote a new overall increase in commercial relations between Chile and Bolivia.

Chile will not impose any tariffs on eight Bolivian products, without reciprocity, in addition to those included in the economic complementation agreement being negotiated between the two countries. This was reported by the participants in the fifth round of talks to sign the desired agreement.

Bernard Inch, Bolivian Foreign Ministry economic affairs and integration secretary, said today that the eight products from the agricultural and industrial areas represent sales totaling $30 million a year.

The Chilean foreign minister also referred to the Chilean position that will be adopted at the UN Human Rights Commission to designate a special observer for Cuba concerning human rights.

Silva Cimma declined to make a statement on this decision. He said the communications media are changing continuously, and I would not like to give an opinion that might be changed later. He also declined commenting on remarks by Cuban leader Fidel Castro, who said he would step down from power in a five-year period. Chile and Cuba have had relations at the consular level since 1991. The Chilean Government has conditioned an increase in relations with Cuba to increasing respect for human rights in Cuba.

Trade Relations Resumed With Bolivia

PY2602134593 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 2330 GMT 25 Feb 93

[Text] Chile has officially resumed trade relations with Bolivia. The announcement was made by Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma, who added that a trade agreement will be signed with Venezuela at the beginning of April.

Chile severed diplomatic relations with Bolivia in 1978. Chilean and Bolivian businessmen and foreign service officials are currently negotiating a trade agreement

between the two countries. They are trying to define a list of 100 products to boost bilateral trade.

[Begin Bernard Inch, from the Bolivian delegation, recording] We want to find competitive Bolivian products—which is not easy because Bolivian exports are rather limited—for the Chilean market. We want these products to pay lower customs duties so that we can reduce our trade balance deficit. [end recording]

Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma was optimistic that an agreement will eventually be reached.

[Begin Silva Cimma recording] I believe we will sign this agreement during the meeting to be held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia. In my capacity of coordinator of the Rio Group, I will have the honor of presiding over the meeting of foreign ministers. [end of recording]

Government 'Concerned' Over Fruit Restrictions

PY2602142193 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] Through its adviser (Sebastian Saenz), the Finance Ministry has expressed the government's concern over a recent decision imposing restrictions on Chilean apples. The official said that protectionist policies are inappropriate solutions to the problems of developed countries. He said such policies restrict countries like Chile.

He added that the threat of a commercial war jeopardizes current commercial rules.

[Begin recording] This can specifically harm the economies of countries like Chile, which have promoted the liberalization of commerce at a world level, transforming foreign trade into a major factor of our economic growth. Protectionist polices, trade control policies, and voluntary restrictions on exports, are today used as a solution to the problems that some countries are confronting, especially the developed countries. They are inappropriate answers which can become serious obstacles in the medium term. [end recording]

(Saenz) announced that the Chilean concern will be expressed at the mixed Chilean-European Economic Community trade committee, which will meet in Brussels in March.

The European Community office in Santiago issued a communique saying no unilateral decisions were made and no quotas were established in connection with apple purchase restrictions. The communique adds that conversations have been held with Chile to design a mechanism for studying the problem with the cooperation of both sides. The communique states that export levels may be negotiated whenever such levels reach the quantities set by the European Economic Community.

Colombia

Ecuador Grants Venezuelan Coupist Officers Asylum

PA2802194193 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] The Venezuelan officers involved in the coup attempt captured by the Administrative Department of Security [DAS] in Pasto will leave the country within hours with Ecuador as their destination. They will leave under asylum and not as deportees.

Ecuador has just accepted the political asylum requested by the two Venezuelan officers who are under arrest in Pasto. Coupists Colonel Higinio Castro and Captain Oscar Navas will leave on the afternoon of 1 March bound to Quito on a commercial flight with their lawyer Ernesto A. Mezquita. Likewise, the DAS will issue safe-conducts to allow the transfer of the two Venezuelan officers under political asylum.

[Begin Castro recording] I have been treated well. I feel right at home and publicly thank the Colombian people in my name and in the name of my family. [end recording]

Following discussions by the Foreign Ministry, the DAS, and the coupists' lawyer, the Colombian Government made a Solomonic decision under international law. Col. Castro and Capt. Navas' direct request for asylum to Ecuador prevents harming relations between Colombia and Venezuela.

[Begin Mezquita recording] Yes, we are working on their freedom, the safe-conducts, and the asylum request. [end recording]

From the moment the Venezuelan officers requested political asylum, the Governments of Peru, Costa Rica, Mexico, and El Salvador agreed to receive them.

President Comments on Crime, Rebels, Other Topics

PA2602214893 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Colombian President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo had lunch on 25 February at the Narino Presidential Palace with the directors of the most important media in the country.

The president was surrounded by an air of being in complete control of the situation. He looked relaxed, secure, in a good mood, and—above all—very aware of his leading role and the social and political responsibility he has before Colombians.

Regarding the country's problems, he said that for the first time in many years the country sees and feels that the problem of insecurity and violence is yielding. This is

due to the blows dealt by the military forces to the subversive organizations, as well as the drug trafficking groups.

The chief of state presented the journalists with some interesting numbers. He said that in 1991 there were 1,500 registered kidnappings in Colombia; in 1992 the amount decreased to 1,000; and over the first two months of 1993 there have been only 60 kidnappings.

The president of the Republic said the Public Works Ministry will lend the nation—specifically the Defense Ministry—30 billion pesos over the remainder of the year to be used to strengthen the security plan proposed during the president's television address early in the week of 22 February. The security plan is expected to cost 145 billion pesos.

The president said that later—but before the end of 1993—the nation will return the money to the Public Works Ministry, and the tolls division, so they can fulfill the promises made by Public Works Minister Jorge Bendeck to maintain the roads and repair them properly, as said before the increase in the toll rates decreed as of 1 February 1993.

President Gaviria recognized the task carried out by the media and pointed out their collaboration in the struggle against subversion and drug trafficking.

For the time being, the government is not thinking of appointing a new presidential adviser for peace. He would have nothing to do, said the president laughing.

The president stated categorically that in this government there would not be a new dialogue, like the one held in Tlaxcala and Caracas, as long as the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board does not show a clear and unmistakable will to disarm and demobilize.

I have no intention of paying the political cost of a new dialogue that would only serve to strengthen the warlike spirit of the subversives, said the president.

President Gaviria said that, in the counterinsurgency struggle, over the last 50 days the Colombian Army has captured over 400 guerrillas, besides the leaders whose identities are already well known to the public. [passage omitted]

Constitutional Court Rules on Antiterrorist Statute

PA2802203493 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] The Constitutional Court has ruled that the measures by the government to fight drug trafficking, narcoterrorism, and subversion, as well as the antiterrorism statute and the faceless judges, do not violate the Constitution and declared the statute attainable [exequible]. Neither defense nor due process are violated; timely and proper justice is what is sought, which was hindered by the very same criminal organizations, the Constitutional Court ruling reports.

According to the ruling, the antiterrorist statute and the faceless judges are special measures that were promulgated to fight these types of crimes. To this end, special procedures to gather evidence were specified, which can only be bypassed at a specific point during the process.

This will reduce the amount of work and expedite the penal processes against those who are involved in atrocious crimes, the ruling adds.

Study Shows Drug Money 'Invading' Country

PA0103034093 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] Dollars from narcotics trafficking are invading Colombia. Monetary authorities and experts from eight universities say that this alarming situation is because the drug business in Europe is generating more profits than what the drug lords obtained in the United States during the last decade.

Without realizing it, this economic opening is promoting the massive entry of dollars from narcotics trafficking. This information is taken from a study conducted by the Foundation for Higher Education and Development [Fedesarrollo] that includes input from the Colombian monetary authorities, as well as experts from several universities and international organizations.

According to the study that will be published in 20 days, the high profits offered by the Colombian market for foreign capital is promoting the massive entry of dollars from drug trafficking. In just eight months, nearly $2.5 billion from drug trafficking have entered the country, which are the profits obtained during the 80's that had been kept at banks in Switzerland, Panama, Italy, and Germany.

[Begin Fedesarrollo Economic Director Mauricio Cardenas recording] We believe drug traffickers are operating with the same rationality and the same criteria as any investor. Part of the revenue comes from resources that had been accumulated abroad with monies originating from narcotics trafficking. [end recording]

According to the authorities, it is very difficult today to detect the presence of narco dollars in the market, because they become confused with the monies that Colombians and foreigners are sending back to Colombia, as a result of the exchange opening in our country. They also advise that in spite of the fall in prices and drug consumption in the United States, Colombian drug trafficking is obtaining extremely high profits from its sales in Europe, which is consuming nearly 150 tons of cocaine and some 20 tons of heroin processed in Colombia every year. One can predict that in the near future there will be a much greater flow of narco dollars in the Colombian market.

[Begin Cardenas recording] This might represent approximately $700 billion per year for the Colombian drug traffickers. [end recording]

The report concludes that the Colombian authorities must tighten their controls for detecting the dollars from narcotics trafficking that continue to enter the country. They advise that these controls should not hinder the economic opening process or the production that require capital in order to modernize and compete with international industry.

Medellin Car Bomb Explosion Leaves Over 40 Injured

PA2702020193 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Report by Maribel Osorio]

[Text] The provisional results of the car bomb that exploded in the center of Medellin on the night of 26 February is more than 40 persons injured and nine vehicles destroyed. The objective of the attack is not known at this time.

A few minutes before 2200 [0300 GMT], two policemen became suspicious of the attitude of two people in a car. Few people, however, believe that a car bomb would have been activated just to attack the two police officers. The explosion injured 40 people, including 38 passersby, and caused destruction to four street corners. The action was sheer terrorism.

[Begin unidentified man recording] It already happened in Santa Fe de Bogota and now it is happening in Medellin. Thankfully, the explosion took place at night because it would have caused fatalities and more injured if it had been earlier. [end recording]

The area was cordoned off on the morning of 26 February. Only the proprietors and employees of the damaged businesses were allowed to enter the area to try to recover what was not destroyed. The total losses amount to 250 million pesos. This is a low estimate for the damage observed in 47 commercial outlets, nine buildings, and nine vehicles.

The car containing the bomb had been stolen in Envigado municipality at 1900. It is surprising that in less than two and a half hours—the car theft had not even been reported—the terrorists had already prepared the car to be a car bomb. An orange [word indistinct] with license plate LJH668 was the bearer of 90 kg of explosives. It was placed at the corner of [word indistinct], in front of the Colombian Telecommunications Enterprise, in a commercial and banking area. The height of the buildings boxed in the explosion and repercussions were felt throughout the city.

Prominent Labor Leader Killed in Medellin

PA2702163593 Santa Fe de Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Medellin—Jose Oliverio Molina, secretary general of the Agricultural Industry Union (Sintraynagro) in Uraba, was killed by several men, who took him out of the hotel where he was staying in the city of Medellin.

The labor leader was visiting the capital of Antioquia Department and was staying at the Metropol Hotel on 47th Street and 45th Avenue. Several individuals arrived at the hotel and forced Molina to accompany them. Later, police reported that the body of Jose Oliverio Molina was found with multiple bullet wounds on 34th Street and Del Rio Avenue, near the Medellin Convention Center.

The secretary general of Sintraynagro had participated in several negotiations of collective bargaining agreements with banana plantation businessmen in the area of Uraba, where he was recognized as a prominent leader of the working class.

Government Imposes Curfew in Uraba Municipalities

PA2802172393 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] On the evening of 27 February, silence and desolation pervaded the Uraba region in Antioquia. Carepa, Necocli, and Apartado Municipalities have been affected by a savage wave of terrorism and are observing a curfew. The decision to impose a curfew was adopted by the Presidency, where the Government and Defense ministers studied the violent incidents that have shaken the Uraba region. The government also ordered an intensification of police and Army patrols in the region to restore normalcy.

Several councilmen, labor leaders, banana workers, and well-known activists from the demobilized Hope, Peace and Liberty movement have been killed over the past few days. In view of these incidents, on the evening of 27 February the commander of the Army 1st Division in Barranquilla transferred his post to Uraba, which is in a state of upheaval.

The government has also announced an aggressive political, social and security policy for Uraba, in which it will invest 130 billion pesos over the next three years. While these measures were being announced, it was disclosed that the Army killed four Popular Liberation Army guerrillas in Turbo, a rural area.

The government has asked residents of Uraba to cooperate with the authorities to combat the criminals, who over the past month have killed 34 people, and it has given assurances that it will struggle tirelessly to reestablish peace in this area.

Drug Trafficking, Money Laundering Rings Dismantled

PA2702143193 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] The Administrative Department of Security and Colombian Interpol delivered another strong blow to

international drug trafficking on 26 February. During this operation, which lasted eight months, authorities seized a large number of vehicles and froze several bank accounts. They also arrested 10 Colombians and foreigners who moved up to 1 ton of cocaine to Europe. The police also dismantled a gang that was laundering money for the Medellin Cartel.

Based on information compiled during operations such as Green Ice, Bishop, Robledo, and Saturn, the National Police managed to dismantle an international money laundering network. During Operation Mars, which included search raids in Santa Fe de Bogota and Medellin, over 1,000 international and local bank accounts were frozen. Through the seizure of dozens of computers and 1,800 diskettes, the authorities learned the Medellin Cartel has managed to launder $15 million during the past year.

According to information supplied by the police, the money launderers have used the Cafetero Bank, Anglo-Colombian Bank, Banoquia, Bank of Colombia, and the Colombian Industrial Bank. Some of the devices used are tampering with invoices, money exchange agencies, fictitious exports, foreign investment, and personal and traveler's checks. The most popular way of shipping the money is hidden in appliances on board commercial ships and airplanes. The authorities managed to determine that personal checks are drafted against regular checking accounts in foreign banks. In collaboration with the traffickers, the banks issue checks for amounts starting at $150,000.00, but the beneficiary is left blank. This allows the checks to be negotiated in Colombia at financial entities, money exchange agencies, or personal drug operations.

Agencies such as the DEA and Interpol considered this the largest operation against the Medellin Cartel's financial network. Robert Foner, the director of the DEA, stated this in a letter addressed to the director of the National Police.

Anti-Escobar Group Destroys Ranch in Antioquia

PA2802025193 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Another attack by the so-called Pepes [Persecuted by Pablo Escobar] group took place in the predawn hours of 27 February in Llano Grande, eastern Antioquia. This time they burnt the main house at a ranched called La Corona and a Mercedes-Benz automobile belonging to Diego Londono White, former manager of the Medellin Subway.

[Begin unidentified witness recording] It happened at about 1930 [0030 GMT]. The people say there were several cars.... [pauses] several men. [end recording]

The neighbors also said the men were looking for Mr. Londono White and when they did not find him, they proceeded to torch the house and the vehicle. The owners of the ranch deny the reports that the Pepes perpetrated the action. They say that the fire started with an electrical short circuit. The main entrance of the house, however, shows visible signs of a forced entry, and the statements by neighbors reaffirm that it was in fact an attack. The only thing that has not been determined is the connection between Pablo Escobar and Mr. Londono White.

Rebel Leader Captured, Search Operations Increase

PA2702132693 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Search operations in Santander have been increased. On 25 February the Army captured another guerrilla leader, who was a member of the Army of National Liberation Finance Commission. The Captain Parmenio Front operated in Lebrija, Giron, and Sabana de Torres. Luis Sanabria, alias El Maestro, was captured on a ranch in Lebrija Municipality. He was alone and carried no weapons at the time. According to military intelligence reports, El Maestro had been in the municipality for three years, submitting its inhabitants to extortion, kidnapping, and terrorist actions. The arrest comes eight days after the arrest of Geronimo, who proved to be a key element in the investigation. Meanwhile, in Betulia municipality, the Army captured two rebels of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia 12th Front, who are now in the custody of the regional attorney's office.

Paraguay

Presidential Hopefuls Send Invitation to Carter

PY2602161493 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 26 Feb 93 p 7

[Text] The candidates for president of the Republic, with the exception of Juan Carlos Wasmosy, have asked former U.S. President Jimmy Carter to observe the May general elections to guarantee the democratic transition process.

In a letter to Carter, the candidates state that this optimistic process initiated by President Rodriguez is now facing a critical situation.

They report that the Armed Forces have not maintained a neutral position, they unconstitutionally support one of the pro-government Colorado Party hopefuls.

The letter states: "We want the process prior to the 9 May elections to be transparent, and we want the government and the Armed Forces to refrain from exerting any strange influence."

The candidates believe that the participation of personalities like Carter will prevent the failure of the democratic process.

The letter is signed by Ricardo Canese, Joel Atilio Cazal, Leandro Prieto Yegros, Luis Maria Argana, Abraham Zapag, Domingo Laino, and Guillermo Caballero Vargas.

Caballero Vargas reiterated the invitation to Carter to participate as an observer in the presidential elections.

Argana Delegates Walk Out During Colorado Convention

PY2702173393 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 1520 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Report by Stella Ruffinelli at the Colorado Party headquarters in Asuncion—live]

[Text] The special convention of the Colorado Party was again called to order today at 0830. Delegates who support the Argana-Ybanez ticket walked out from the convention following the outcome of the first vote in which the Wasmosy-Seifart candidate to the electoral board, Carlos Raul Noguera, obtained 258 votes against only 114 votes for Julio Cesar Cantero, Argana's candidate.

There were, however, four ballots more than the total number of delegates accredited at the beginning of the convention. As a result, all of the delegates supporting Argana walked out from the convention at the request of Diogenes Martinez [the legal representative of the Argana-Ybanez faction].

The Argana-Ybanez faction will apparently take every legal step necessary to annul this vote and may request that all members of the new electoral board be disqualified because it considers this vote to be fraudulent.

The voting continues here and some ballot boxes have already been turned in, but the number of ballots has markedly declined in light of the walkout of the Argana supporters. While some delegates are eating, others are voting. The atmosphere is much more relaxed here because the convention now is being attended only by the Wasmosy-Seifart supporters.

Let us now talk with Hugo Estigarribia, Jr., who brought a notary public with him.

[Begin recording] [Estigarribia] Yes. I have asked a notary public to come with me at the request of the officials of this convention to draw up a document and to witness all that is happening here; that is, to verify the fact that there is a quorum here as well as the outcome of the voting.

[Ruffinelli] Are you saying that you want to make sure that the new electoral board will be legal?

[Estigarribia] Of course. We want this convention to yield clear, uncontestable results. The best way to do this is by having a notary public verify all this because he is an officer of the court and because any document drawn up by a notary public will stand in any court of law. [end recording]

We must add, however, that the notary public's document may be contested by the Argana-Ybanez faction, which vowed to take every legal step required to uphold what it described as the people's will and sovereignty.

Carlos Raul Noguera, Edgar Stanley, Carlos Ramon Valdez, Juan Dellavedova, and Rodney Fuster Gadea are the five candidates proposed by the Wasmosy-Seifart faction to serve on the electoral board. Alternate members are Luis Vely, Juan Carlos Miranda, Victor Poletti, Luis Armando Godoy, and Valentina Nunez.

It has been speculated here that the new electoral board may annull the 27 December election, that there may be no time to call new primaries, and that the only remaining alternative would be the lemas system electoral proposal, which will have to count on the support of the Argana-Ybanez legislators in order to pass in Congress. Thus, the Colorado Party may have to go to the general election under the lemas system.

Angel Roberto Seifart stated here today that the Wasmosy-Seifart ticket will continue, thus denying rumors about a possible change in the ticket. Luis Maria Argana also stated that if the lemas electoral system is approved, he will participate in the general election under this system. The convention continues.

Riquelme Closes Colorado Party Convention

PY2702213793 Asuncion Radio Nanduti in Spanish 1915 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Colorado Party convention closing speech by Executive Board President Blas N. Riquelme at the Colorado Party headquarters in Asuncion—live; broadcast in progress]

[Excerpts] I enthusiastically congratulate all of you. Those who are here and those who have left. Everyone. [applause]

We have made it. We have successfully achieved the goal of this historic special convention. We have chosen the [electoral] board. With dignity, self-denial, spirit, responsibility, and republican loyalty, you have supplied our Executive Board with the device we need at this moment to break the deadlock of our party's electoral and political institutional march. [applause]

In this regard, we will immediately move on to the next stage in which we will again meet in the countryside, in your houses, in order to make possible the Colorado Party's great victory on 9 May and elect a civilian Colorado president to govern our great country. [applause] A Colorado president who will interpret your decisions, your hopes, because I do not harbor the slightest doubt, my dear fellow party members, that the Colorado Party, without any type of doubts and without any type of discussion, represents a majority. On 9 May

we will demonstrate, with votes, that the Colorado Party represents the majority of the Paraguayan people. [applause]

Some people have left the convention. It does not matter. I will visit them at their houses, at their homes. so that they will return. [applause] I pledge, in your name, to carry out this task, and God surely will help me bring everyone into harmony and have all Colorados, without exception, taste victory on 9 May. [applause]

In conclusion, we have worked hard. You should feel happy that you have come here, representing the Colorado people with honor, responsibility, and dignity here at this convention that has just ended.

At this moment, we are being watched by all Paraguayans, by all these journalists who represent the curiosity of our people. They have seen how we have worked. They have seen how we Colorados are able to overcome our own problems. All by ourselves, without any ambassador coming here to guide us or preside over our discussions. [applause] No ambassador, of any country in the world, will come here to twist your decision. No matter how much money he has. We all have money. We all have grandeur. [applause] No ambassador, I repeat, will come here to change your decision. [applause] [passage omitted]

I hail all conventioneers. Congratulations and many thanks. [applause]

Wasmosy-Seifart Ticket Wins Electoral Board

PY0103021393 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 28 Feb 93 p 6

[Excerpt] The Wasmosy-Seifart faction obtained two-thirds of the votes in the election of electoral board members after three unsuccessful conventions at Colorado Party headquarters. During the first vote, which was attended by representatives from the two Colorado Party factions, the Wasmosy-Seifart candidate for the electoral board, Carlos Raul Noguera, obtained 258 votes, and Julio Cesar Cantero, the Argana faction candidate, obtained 114 votes.

During the second vote, which was not attended by Argana's supporters, Edgar Stanley obtained 258 votes. Carlos Ramon Valdez, Juan Dellavedova, and Rodney F. Gadea were then elected as full members and Luis A. Vely, Juan Carlos Miranda Duarte, Victor Poletti, Luis Armando Godoy, and Valentino Nunez as alternate members. [passage omitted]

Colorado Party Factions To Continue Struggle

PY0103022193 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 28 Feb 93 p 9

[Text] The Colorado Party factions apparently will continue the struggle by taking legal steps. Most of the leaders of the Argana and Wasmosy factions have admitted that the creation of the party electoral board does not imply the end of the internal conflicts.

Various leaders think, however, that negotiations to reach a consensus and imposing the lemas electoral system are the only alternatives that can solve the Colorado Party's serious internal crisis.

Bernardino Cano Radil, from the Wasmosy-Seifart faction, yesterday stated that "reportedly no legal step will be taken" to solve the crisis. He said: "Full negotiations among the various factions or the sanction of a lemas law" are the most feasible choices to solve the crisis.

The new Colorado Party electoral board was installed at 1930 on 27 February at Colorado Party headquarters. Carlos Podesta, chairman of the Colorado Party special convention, installed the new electoral board members.

Cano Radil said the electoral board basically has four alternatives to end the discussion among Colorado Party supporters on the results of the December elections.

He outlined the following hypothesis to solve the crisis: 1) to proclaim as winner one of the four presidential tickets that participated in the latest Colorado Party primaries, 2) to completely annul the vote and call for new elections, 3) to partially annul the elections and declare the victory of one of the factions, and 4) to partially annul the elections and call for complementary elections in certain places to finally find out the primary winner.

Colorado Faction Leader on Alleged Bribe for Board Members

PY0103162593 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 27 Feb 93 p 3

[Text] Juan Carlos Wasmosy, a presidential hopeful for the National Republican Association [ANR—Colorado Party], yesterday stressed: "People are talking about 50 million guaranies for each electoral board member." Nevertheless, he refused to disclose the names of the "contacted" electoral board candidates.

The controversial entrepreneur-politician said the economic bid received by ANR electoral board candidates was the main reason for the failure of an idea to form the electoral board with three men from Ticket No. 2 and two men appointed by Ticket No. 4.

Wasmosy stressed that the report on a 50 million guaranies bid for each Colorado Party electoral board candidate prompted Juan Crisostomo Gaona, the general trustee for the Wasmosy-Seifart ticket, to make a decision to definitely discontinue the negotiations within the negotiating commission.

Wasmosy noted that Gaona and other Ticket No. 2 members reviewed the situation and chose to discontinue the search for a consensus mechanism within the

negotiating commission to form the independent electoral body in order to prevent long voting sessions during the special convention.

Wasmosy preferred not to elaborate on the issue. He simply noted: "I have been informed that a wealthy man has made attempts to bribe various board members with a fairly important sum of money."

The presidential hopeful admitted that the attempt to bribe the future ANR electoral board members may cause the Colorado Party electoral process to fail, in which case the ANR candidates would not be registered at the Central Electoral Board.

Wasmosy noted: "Therefore, this is the reason. I am saying this bluntly and clearly so that there will be no doubt later about certain people." Nevertheless, he did not disclose the names of the people who were "contacted" by the alleged local entrepreneurial magnate.

Wasmosy emphasized his reasons for not disclosing the names by pointing out: "All of us have a reputation that must be preserved and it is very easy to tarnish people. We are trying to prevent the tarnishing of people who may be elected."

Wasmosy stressed that today, during the special convention, the Colorado Party electoral board candidates will be voted on one by one. He was confident that this time the required two-thirds will be achieved and stressed that his ticket will present a list of 10 candidates that will be different from the list presented in the last session.

Supreme Court Resolves PRF Conflict

PY2602204993 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 24 Feb 93 p 7

[Excerpt] Through agreement and Resolution No. 19, the Supreme Court has unanimously decided "to declare null and void Resolution No. 25 of 22 October 1992 issued by the Asuncion Electoral Court." This decision puts an end to the protracted internal judicial disagreement within the PRF [Febrerista Revolutionary Party] between the movements Unity and Modernity for Change (List No. 1), headed by Victor Sanchez Villagra, and the Febrerista Renewal (List No. 2) headed by Benigno Perrota.

The Supreme Court also decided "to declare inadmissible the request for intervention submitted against the elections already held because the annulled ruling is notoriously inopportune." Thus, the internal elections held last month are absolutely valid, during which the party elected its candidates for elective posts for the 9 May national elections, for which the "Febrerista Renewal" movement is left without candidates for not having participated in said elections.

The Asuncion Electoral Court had decided to declare Resolution No. 13 of 16 September 1992 by the party's Central Electoral Board null, and for this reason 27 September 1992 was set for the second round of elections (the first was held on 6 September) in all electoral districts. Those held outside them were annulled. Moreover, the Central Electoral Board had declared null all later actions based on said resolution. [passage omitted]

Legislator Reports on Paraguayan Ultra-Right Group

PY2702014693 Asuncion Radio Primero de Marzo in Spanish 2100 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Reports from Montevideo, Uruguay, state that an ultra-right group of former Paraguayan policemen who worked for the Alfredo Stroessner regime has connections in Uruguay. This is concluded from investigations conducted in Asuncion, Paraguay, by Uruguayan Deputy Hugo Cores.

According to what spokespersons from Cores' office told EFE today, Cores has informed Uruguayan Interior Minister Juan Andres Ramirez that in Paraguay there are strong indications of the existence of a commando-type group headed by Antonio Campos and Felix Neri, former members of Stroessner's police. According to Cores, this group allegedly intends to launch attacks against legislators, lawyers, and former Paraguayan political prisoners who currently are studying and disseminating the archives of Stroessner's police.

The same sources added that the leftist legislator also informed the Uruguayan interior minister that this Paraguayan group allegedly has connections in Montevideo.

Cores is a member of the Party for the Victory of the People, PVP, a radical group within the Broad Front leftist coalition, the third most powerful political force in Uruguay.

Cores recently returned from Paraguay, where he conducted an investigation of the so-called horror archives of the Stroessner regime's police force, which were recently seized by the Paraguayan courts.

Cores, who is also vice chairman of the Uruguayan Chamber of Deputies human rights commission, investigated the cases of Uruguayan citizens Gustavo Insaurralde Melgar and Nelson Santana, former members of a political group, who were reported missing after their arrest in May 1977 by Paraguayan police. [passage omitted]

ANR Urges Congressmen To Approve Lemas Law

PY2702185393 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 27 Feb 93 p 5

[Excerpt] Following a marathon meeting that lasted four and one-half hours and that was held behind closed doors, the ANR [National Republican Association] Executive Board decided yesterday evening to exhort Colorado Party congressmen to vote for the bill on the lemas electoral system in Congress. By a 40-11 vote, the executive board of the ruling party voted through this

political measure that seeks to have the bill on simultaneous double voting passed by Congress.

After the meeting ANR Chairman Blas N. Riquelme reported that the exhortation is by no means "mandatory" for Colorado Party congressmen. The latter will be able to vote for or against the reform of the electoral law proposed by the executive branch to Congress, namely the lemas electoral system or the system of a simultaneous double vote.

The contents of the ANR Executive Board decision will be released today at approximately 1000 local time [1300 GMT] by a drafting committee chaired by Angel Roberto Seifart.

Riquelme underscored the fact that the exhortation is not aimed at mandating congressmen to toe the mark, adding that he himself will inform Colorado Party bloc leaders in both chambers about the resolution.

For his part, Diogenes Martinez, who supports the Argana-Ybanez faction, commented that one of the reasons why he decided to reject the exhortation was that he realized that if the lemas electoral system is passed by Congress the whole political process may be jeopardized, as somebody may bring an action before court claiming that the law was not constitutional.

Martinez stated that "I contended that if we voted for this measure we would place the whole democratic process in jeopardy because we would be opting for a solution, the validity of which is rather questionable."

Martinez further stated that it was made clear that the proposal submitted by the executive branch to Congress may be modified by common consent. He went on to say that should there be any doubt or a better proposal, Colorado Party congressmen could negotiate the modification or improvement of the proposal submitted by President Rodriguez to Congress. [passage omitted]

Peru

Car Bomb Attack in Lima Kills Two, Injures 50

PA0103131393 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1220 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Report by Mario Buchanan]

[Excerpts] An attack in the early morning hours of 1 March a few meters from the Peruvian Air Force Recruitment Center resulted in two dead, over 50 injured—15 of them seriously—and the partial destruction of an education center, in addition to other extensive property damage.

Three individuals, believed to be subversives, set off the explosion of a Volkswagen automobile with license plate II4160, which had been left at the intersection of Los Girones, Jorge Chavez, and Vanegas Avenues, several meters from Las Palmas Air Force and Engineering Garrison.

Since January hundreds of youths have been sleeping on the sidewalks in the area, waiting to be recruited by the Reserve and Mobilization headquarters. When the explosion occurred, some 300 youths, from 17 to 18 years of age, were at the site, in addition to four street vendors. Three of the vendors suffered multiple fractures. In addition, their wares were destroyed. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, fire department units from Surco neighborhood, Air Force ambulances, and several police cars were used to evacuate the youths, who were in the area to register for obligatory military service. A seven-year-old child suffered multiple contusions and was also transferred to a nearby hospital.

The explosion of the car bomb—which was loaded with 100 kilos of ammonium nitrate, fuel oil, and dynamite—left a 1-meter crater. The shock wave destroyed not only the window panes of adjacent houses, but also nine of the 11 classrooms of the Jose Abelardo Quinones High School. [passage omitted]

The National Police are carrying out intensive operations to locate the criminals who set off the car bomb at the Air Force Recruitment Office. Two people were killed. One of them has already been identified as Edwin Urreta, 18. [passage omitted]

Fujimori Discusses Foreign Debt, Human Rights

PA0103011593 Lima Frecuencia 2 Satelite Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Interview with President Alberto Fujimori by unidentified reporter at the government palace in Lima; date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] We are here with the president of the Republic, Engineer President Alberto Fujimori, at the government palace to discuss current issues that were particularly relevant this week—moralization and human rights. These issues are linked to Peru's image abroad and they have created uncertainty and tension in a nation that saw Peru's return to the international financial system being threatened after two and a half years of sacrifices. Good morning, Mr. President.

[Fujimori] Good morning. How about explaining that we are in the Sevilla Room in the government palace? This way the people will see we have changed the setting.

[Reporter] That is right. It would be interesting to tour the government palace one day because it has such an interesting history and architecture.

[Fujimori] Precisely.

[Reporter] Let us return to the topic. The second support group has been comprised finally. What can Peruvians expect now? What is the timetable for the group and what will be the results?

[Fujimori] The efforts made by ministers [Jorge] Camet, Fernando Vega, and [Oscar] de la Puente in Geneva, overcame the prevailing atmosphere of uncertainty. We were confident we would overcome the situation, and everything has been a success. This is a copy of the summons issued by the United States for the support group. The document is dated 25 February and the support group will meet on 4 March. The summons even gives the time, 1500, at the IMF headquarters. A revision of the program presented by Peru will follow. This will be done at a directorate board meeting on 17 March and, most important, the accrued debt will be paid on 19 March—according to the timetable. The accrued debt with the IMF and World Bank will be paid thanks to the support from the United States and Japan.

[Reporter] Specifically, what can the Peruvian people expect after the support is created and once Peru is no longer an ineligible country? We understand this opens the doors to international credit, which is very important to us, but the people also expect cash from the international credit organizations. Can you explain how much money will be sent to the country as a result of this new situation?

[Fujimori] We cannot be too hasty concerning the amount. The first important step is to be eligible, meaning not to be considered a pariah country—as we have been for over five years. We have not exerted ourselves for only the past two years; we have been considered a pariah country for many years. No country trusted Peru. The situation will change once we cancel the accrued debt, but the flow of cash will not only come from international financial organizations, such as the World Bank and IMF. I think it will mainly come from cooperating countries. Many cooperating countries, including Japan, have failed to grant large amounts of credit needed for development plans.

That door will be open after such a difficult negotiation, in which so many sacrifices were made by the general public. We now have the opportunity to negotiate with the Paris Club and alleviate the payment of our foreign debt.

[Reporter] Nevertheless, the people want a break after so many sacrifices.

[Fujimori] Well, after....

[Reporter interrupting] They do not want to see all the money used to pay the foreign debt, meaning that no cash is seen. Right?

[Fujimori] No, but we must fulfill our pledges. By the way, the debt was not contracted with the approval of the people or this government. Instead, it was contracted under the circumstances we all know about: embezzlement, squandering, and lack of controls. That is why Peru has such a large debt that represents a burden which precludes the country's economic development. That is why we must alleviate those foreign debt amortizations and interest payments. However, in 1993 we will receive World Bank resources, just like we are receiving from the IMF, and we also expect resources from the cooperating countries. I believe the situation will change—but in a progressive way.

[Reporter] The problem will be solved but our country's image remains the same. For example, regarding the human rights issue, the U.S. State Department presented a report on the human rights situation in Peru. We all know about this report. It is practically responsible for this situation of uncertainty. The report mentions specific cases and we would like to ask you if the government intends to respond with specific answers to all the accusations included in the 1992 report on Peru.

[Fujimori] What the government can do, and must do, is analyze the document and refute some of the charges. I have seen the report and some of the charges are not so exact, but we must admit others certainly are. We must complement our answer with statements on other measures adopted by the government to guarantee respect for human rights. We have an overall antisubversive strategy that will allow us to achieve peace in the country, and the prevailing opinion is that we are approaching that goal. This is the first time such a strategy has prevailed in my country and mistakes can be incurred in the process. Some of the mistakes cannot be explained or justified. We know this. The movie The Wolf's Lair somehow sums up the way in which those human rights violations were perpetrated, and this may have happened in the country—even during my administration. This happened in an isolated area of Huancavelica. The central government cannot control this.

[Reporter] Former president Fernando Belaunde once said he threw Amnesty International's reports in the trash. Do you hold a similar view of human rights organizations such as the Red Cross, for example?

[Fujimori] The image I have of the Red Cross is that it is a very serious organization that conducts its business in a discreet manner. My relationship with the Red Cross has always been discreet and I have used Red Cross reports to correct certain mistakes. This can be confirmed by the general director of the police and the commanders of the Armed Forces.

[Reporter] However, you do not seem to have the same opinion of other organizations.

[Fujimori] No, in the cases of other human rights organizations all I have ever said is, please report the alleged violations perpetrated by the forces of order or the Peruvian state, but also report the violations perpetrated by the Shining Path and the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement, MRTA, concurrently and with the

same intensity. If complaints are leveled against only one side, the other side is portrayed as a victim.

[Reporter] Another issue that involves Peru's image abroad and was prompted by the problem that emerged between the Central Reserve Bank, BCR, and the Comptroller's Office is the moralization of our country. What is your view of this phenomenon and what repercussions did it have when you were planning high level meetings with the IMF?

[Fujimori] I had hoped this issue would not have had negative repercussions at these international organizations because they observe the manner in which we handle our accounts. It is regrettable that suspicions between two state institutions could have created circumstances like these. I hope the issue will be fully clarified because moralization is a necessity, and the people are demanding it. I will not take one step backward on this issue. Our affairs must be clear, and if you will allow me an aside, I will mention a few cases. For example, we discovered a firm, Bladex del Peru, S.A., which perpetrated criminal activities. It has exported goods using fraudulent, forged invoices. I do not want to go into details but these exports were made, I repeat, with forged invoices that allowed the firm to collect $1.7 million from the government treasury. A full investigation is under way and we will take drastic action; we will harshly punish this questionable, criminal conduct.

[Reporter] This case was reported on "Counterpoint," and what surprised us the most was the prompt manner in which the National Bank and the Economy and Finance Ministry paid this firm the $1.7 million. Will the investigation be at all levels?

[Fujimori] Of course it will be at all levels. However, the treasury and National Bank made the payment for exports allegedly carried out with documents that had been presented. In this case, the treasury acted correctly.

[Reporter] Although diskettes worth $4 were being sold at $2,500 each? That was very strange.

[Fujimori] It was truly a scandalous business deal but the part about the price....

[Reporter, interrupting] It causes concern among [word indistinct] employees.

[Fujimori] The part about the price of exported software [previous word in English] is more the responsibility of the Soviet officials. Businessmen as well as lower level Economy Ministry employees are implicated in this fraudulent deal. We must continue the moralization.

I would like to disclose some information regarding certain checking accounts. During the Navy investigation, we discovered at the American Security Bank in the United States—where the Navy's funds were deposited—two accounts that attracted our attention. The accounts belong to Admiral Augusto Vargas Prada and General Jaime Salinas Sedo. I am not saying these are accounts that simply exist. We have the number of one of the accounts, which is a money market [previous words in English] account. If you wish, you can write down the number of the account and investigate it. It is 5398392244.

I have asked myself the most obvious question, and I am sure all of your viewers are also asking themselves where did these officers get the funds; what is the origin; and what are these accounts used for? It is necessary for the country's moralization that these two ranking officers disclose their operations. They must say where they got the money.

[Reporter] Is there any information as to the amount of money in the accounts?

[Fujimori] Not yet, but we do know Gen. Salinas Sedo recently purchased a home in Washington. A house cannot be purchased with $10,000 or $15,000. The first question that comes to mind is how can a general, however high his rank may be—commanding general, or whatever—afford to have a platinum credit card that permits him to conduct transactions worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. This has its implications and can also be the subject of speculation. It leads me to believe that perhaps the events on 13 November were not intended to defend democracy. If one wishes to argue this point, I believe there is incongruity because in Alan Garcia's times, which strictly speaking was a democratic government, Gen. Salinas Sedo also tried a coup d'etat. Therefore, the argument about defending democracy makes me believe that a deeper investigation of the Navy affair is leading us down these narrow and twisted paths intended to cover-up the source of the illegal riches. I believe this affair needs to be clarified.

[Reporter] Pardon the insistence, Mr. President, but I consider it important that we know what are the amounts of these accounts, in particular Gen. Salinas Sedo's account. The bottom line is that any citizen is allowed to hold an overseas account, is that not correct?

[Fujimori] Indeed. In order to get a platinum credit card the account must exceed $500,000.

[Reporter] Gen. Salinas Sedo had a platinum credit card?

[Fujimori] He still has a platinum credit card. Of course, what is called the banking secret exists. The bank is not going to easily divulge the movement and origin of the funds except through legal action. I believe it necessary....

[Reporter, interrupting] But we can assume Gen. Salinas Sedo's account has more than $500,000?

[Fujimori] I repeat, I do not want to hazard a guess as to the amount, but Salinas Sedo has—and everyone saw this when his briefcase seized on 13 November was shown on television—a platinum credit card. With that kind of credit card, you can buy a house by just presenting the card. It is necessary to investigate....

[Reporter, interrupting] What is going to be done specifically to investigate....

[Fujimori, interrupting] ....and if the general has documents that prove he does not have that [?wealth], then he will have to show it. Nonetheless, we are going to prove that the house in Washington is owned by Salinas Sedo.

[Reporter] What is going to be done? What measures are being taken?

[Fujimori] I imagine this is related to the Navy affair. We will have to continue with this investigation—and if necessary—start another parallel investigation.

[Reporter] Before concluding this interview, there is another topic we would like to discuss and that is the issue about the Development Bank, which "Counterpoint" recently discussed. We know that some debts with the Development Bank have been pardoned. We know of people who owed $1,000 or $2,000 to the bank, and their debts have been pardoned. This is a very generous move. Nonetheless, Mr. President, there are persons who have heavy debts, persons who owed approximately $600 million, according to the information we have learned. What is being done about these people who have large debts with the Development Bank?

[Fujimori] First of all, allow me to clarify that this does not have any [words indistinct]. For example, in the case of the Miners' Bank, there is a debt of $3 million to $5 million—I cannot recall the exact figure—owed by 3,000 to 4,000 persons, including miners and industrialists. The cost of recovering those loans, each one of about $1,000 or $2,000, is probably higher than the amount that is recovered, and it will harm that small industrialist, that small miner. Therefore, these measures have been adopted from a practical point of view, and it is cost efficient. This was done basically because we should not concentrate on collecting from those small, poor miners....

[Reporter, interrupting] However, it seems the representatives of these banks—the liquidators— are concentrating specifically on those collections....

[Fujimori, interrupting] That is why I decided these loans should be pardoned. Now, inasmuch as we do not have the 3,000, 4,000, or 5,000 loans to be collected from those small debtors, then the liquidating commission has to concentrate on the large debtors. I do not recall the exact figure....[pauses] I think the figure you mention is somewhat high....

[Reporter] It is $60 million.

[Fujimori] At any rate, that amount....

[Reporter, interrupting] It is $600 million, excuse me.

[Fujimori] The Miners Bank has some $250 million in outstanding debts. Do you recall the Miners Compensation Fund?

[Reporter] Yes, I do.

[Fujimori] Well, many of those loans were granted without any collateral. Therefore, it will be difficult to collect part of those loans. However, the amount that was lost, that is, the amount that must be collected, is very large. It is necessary to work on that. I repeat, we must work on that.

[Reporter] Are you satisfied with the way the liquidators are collecting these debts?

[Fujimori] It is moving somewhat slow, but that is to be expected in these situations.

[Reporter] There are other debtors. For example, a newspaper published by the Federation of Banking Employees reports that there are groups of individuals who owe 200 million soles to the Popular Bank. The names of the groups are mentioned in the report. Has anything been done about this situation?

[Fujimori] Yes, in fact, we must establish deadlines so that these loans will be repaid as soon as possible. These loans were granted to certain companies or prestigious groups. Allow me to read some names: (Nata Nicolini, Naveta), De Ferrari, all of these have debts amounting well over $2 million and $3 million. There are also some government groups such as (Naser Tintaya). Nonetheless, it is necessary to continue with this policy of recovering these funds.

[Reporter] Mr. President, we thank you for this interview with "Counterpoint."

[Fujimori] Thank you very much and have a good day.

Fujimori on Reinsertion Process; Human Rights

PA2802191493 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] President Fujimori has reiterated that on 28 February Peru will conclude its reinsertion process. Economy Minister Jorge Camet will travel to Washington on 3 March to attend the formation of the Support Group on 4 March.

[Begin recording] [Fujimori] The visit by the two ministers [not further identified]—as Camet said—made the availability of U.S. aid possible. It is important for us to receive this U.S. aid, not only because of the Support Group, but also because our delayed payments will soon be paid off with Japan's help.

We already have a schedule that includes a summons to the Support Group, a meeting of the IMF Board of Directors, the paying off of delayed payments to the World Bank and IMF, a Paris Club meeting, and negotiations with private banks.

This entire process will give us a respite in the payment of the debt. If we fail to conduct these negotiations, our payments will be very high. That is the purpose of carrying out the process promptly. From the very

moment Peru achieves its reinsertion, it will have access to international cooperation. This means cooperating countries will be able to increase their financial aid to Peru.

February has been a difficult month, a month of landslides, but food prices have not increased because the market is well regulated. Inflation in February is approximately 3 percent; perhaps the National Statistics and Information Technology Institute will report 2.9 percent and other companies will report 3.1 percent [words indistinct].

[Unidentified reporter] Do you believe that at present, when there are disagreements regarding human rights, Congress will continue debating the death penalty issue?

[Fujimori] There are no disagreements regarding human rights. We have a policy of respect for human rights and a well-defined strategy of pacification. In Peru there is full freedom of the media and expression and I believe congressmen can freely express themselves. We cannot impose limitations on Congress, regardless of the topic under discussion. After the discussions, however, there must be conclusions. This topic may have been postponed because it is a delicate issue and probably, I suppose, because it requires a maturation period and the increased awareness of each congressman. [end recording]

Dincote Presents Shining Path Members to Media

PA2702170893 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] The Counterterrorism National Directorate [Dincote] presented to the media on 26 February 14 Shining Path members who worked for Peruvian People's Assistance. Most of the so-called Socorristas were university students in charge of manufacturing and activating car bombs.

Dincote officials said they were able to dismantle the Shining Path support organization due to the arrest of Marta Huatay, maximum leader of Peruvian People's Assistance. The 14 terrorists were arrested throughout this month.

The group of seven men was presented first: Juvenal Jaime Rodriguez, alias Comrade Efrain, a student of Federico Villareal University; Jose Antonio Espinoza Capa, alias Comrade Francisco, a student of San Martin de Porres University; Juan Alberto Delgadillo Castaneda, alias Comrade Moises, a student of San Marcos National University; Luis Fernando Cantoral Benavides and Luis Alberto Cantoral Benavides, twin brothers who are both known as Comrade Isaac, students of San Marcos National University; Alberto Huaman Loaiza, alias Comrade Alberto; and Victor Quispe Manuico, alias Comrade Victor.

The following form the group of women presented to the media: Angelica Torres Garcia, alias Comrade Mirta, political commander of Peruvian People's Assistance in charge of the women's groups at the National Engineering University and San Martin de Porres University; Maria Elena Loaiza Tamayo, alias Comrade Rita, a professor at San Martin de Porres who sheltered terrorists; Elaine Leon Rios, alias Comrade Carmen; Hilda Judith Flores Rios, alias Comrade Lucia; Margarita Claribel Mateo Guyon, alias Comrade Ana; Vilma Cuevas Antaujo, alias Comrade Monica; and Natalie Mercedes Salas Morales, alias Comrade Cristina.

The students had in their possession subversive material including a red flag embroidered with a hammer and sickle and a large sign dedicated to so-called President Gonzalo—both embroidered with gold thread.

During the presentation, some of the prisoners shouted they were innocent and the women demanded the presence of International Red Cross representatives.

Party Censorship Reportedly Affects APRA Daily

PY2602225193 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 12 Feb 93 p A4

[From the "Unconfirmed" column]

[Text] The censorship ordered by the APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] leadership of INCAHUASI, which is the official party newspaper, and the sudden firing of its director, Jose Luis Fernandini, reveal two major problems inside the political environment of Alfonso Ugarte.

First, the preached-about individual and party freedom do not exist or are subordinated to the National Executive Committee or the General Secretariat.

Second, the also preached-about internal democracy is clearly absent because plurality of ideas and opinions is not allowed, according to the testimony of outstanding activists whose public declarations that disagree with the verticality imposed from the top are considered "irreverent" and "unfriendly."

There are, therefore, open contradictions on freedom and democracy inside the APRA party, which will have to be responsibly made public in light of the current questions due to the serious municipal electoral defeat.

Venezuela

Petroven President on U.S. Energy Tax, Consequences

PA2702183493 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] Gustavo Roosen, president of Venezuelan Petroleum [Petroven], stated Venezuela is studying the possibility of implementing certain commercial measures if

oil shipments to the United States are affected by the energy tax that was announced by President William Clinton.

If the measure announced by the U.S. President—to establish an energy tax with the intention of reducing that nation's fiscal deficit and energy consumption—is approved by Congress it would be implemented in July 1994.

Nevertheless, the announcement caused concern in the country, above all because our nation is one of the main oil suppliers to the United States.

Petroven President Gustavo Roosen announced Venezuela is studying commercial and administrative measures it might implement if the country's oil shipments to the United States are affected by the measure.

[Begin Roosen recording] We have asked our affiliate Citgo, which is similar to our subsidiaries Lagoven or Maraven in Venezuela, to reduce its purchases to third countries and to buy more oil from us. This way we will be able to cover the gap that may possibly occur due to a decrease in consumption.

I want to add that this is a hypothetical alternative. I do not want this taken out of context. This could possibly occur in July 1994 and it would happen in a progressive way. Relatively small amounts are involved, given the magnitude of Petroven's operations. Commercial and administrative solutions are perfectly feasible to guarantee that Venezuela's supplies to the United States will remain unchanged. [end recording]

The Petroven president also announced an upcoming Council of Ministers will analyze the Maraven-Conoco agreement establishing a strategic association to exploit the Orinoco River's bituminous strip. If the agreement is approved by the Council of Ministers, it would be sent to Congress for analysis during the period of sessions scheduled to begin next month.

It is appropriate to mention Petroven plans to invest 300 billion bolivares in expansion projects this year; 188 billion of which will be destined for drilling and production activities.

Ochoa Discusses Severing Relations With Peru

PY2602224993 Lima CARETAS in Spanish 18 Feb 93 pp 45-48

[Interview with Venezuelan Foreign Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich by Elizabeth Perez in Venezuela—date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Ochoa] We have ended our relations with Peru due to a matter of principles. The unwavering defense of the democratic system is one of Venezuelan foreign policy's main principles. Our Betancourt doctrine prompts us to end relations with countries that are ruled by military governments. We ended our relations with Haiti and have done so now with Peru. We deem it necessary to clearly show we reject these two unconstitutional alternatives. President Alberto Fujimori, undoubtedly, is pressured by international organizations such as the OAS; he has proposed the return to a democratic regime by resorting to a constituent assembly and calling for elections. But a democratic regime entails more than an electoral process and a constituent assembly. Undoubtedly the right steps are being taken, but they are not enough because a democratic regime cannot be authoritarian and must allow for a broad freedom of expression so that other political parties are able to offer other alternatives and strongly criticize, as is the case in Venezuela. The government has no right to direct the criticisms. Moreover, in a democratic regime the various branches act independently. The executive branch respects the rules and is supervised by the parliament. The judicial branch is autonomous, and the country is not governed in an autocratic manner. Unfortunately, we have our doubts about whether or not this is the case in Peru. Hopefully, President Fujimori will take firm steps toward an authentic democracy that is not autocratic, that respects every opinion, every opposition sector, and the various powers in order to attain stability. [passage omitted]

Ochoa on Coupist Officers Arrested in Colombia

PA2502194893 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Report by Cecilia Pachano]

[Text] Foreign Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich stated that Venezuela respects the decisions adopted by the Colombian Government on the status of Venezuelan military officers Colonel Higinio Castro and Captain Oscar Navas. The officers, accused of participating in the 27 November coup attempt, were apprehended in Colombia.

Ochoa stated that he had not received official communication from Santa Fe de Bogota. However, he stated that during a conversation with Colombian Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin, he was told that her government had decided to deport the Venezuelan military officers.

The Colombian Foreign Ministry, according to Ochoa, felt that the military officers did not meet the established qualifications for the granting of political asylum. Colombian authorities stated that Colombian laws were violated when the military officers entered Colombia under false documentation. Colombian law states that the officers should have requested asylum before entering Colombia.

Ochoa said that in principle, Colombian authorities had accepted the Venezuelan request to return the military officers. But since the law gives the officers the right to appeal, a new decision by the Foreign Ministry is expected.

[Begin Ochoa recording] I was not in Venezuela at the time. Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin and I were

informed of the situation in El Salvador. I understand that the Colombian Government, through their Defense Ministry, informed the Venezuelan Defense Ministry of the arrest of the two officers. The Venezuelan Government immediately requested that they be deported to Venezuela. The Colombian Government has the sovereign right to decide whether or not it grants asylum to these officers. [end recording]

Ochaoa explained that this is a case of deportation and not extradition, because the Venezuelan military officers broke Colombian laws. Meanwhile, they have been arraigned in Venezuela's military courts.

Ochoa said that although there is no bilateral extradition agreement between Colombia and Venezuela, there is a Bolivarian Extradition Agreement signed by Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and Venezuela on 18 July 1911. He added that in 1928, Colombia and Venezuela exchanged documents in an effort to interpret Article 9 of the agreement. They established a 90 day limit for requesting extradition. The Bustamante Code, which has regulated the asylum right in International Latin American Law, has also been added. This code has been traditionally respected by Venezuela.

Ochoa also explained that no official communication has yet been received from the Colombian Government. It has been impossible to obtain an official pronouncement on the status of this case from the Colombian Embassy, despite continued efforts by "The News" news team.

[Begin recording] [Mauricio Acero, Colombian Embassy counselor] No.

[Pachano] But have you received information from the Foreign Ministry?

[Acero] I do not have any information. If I had information I would report it to you. I am not authorized to speak and until I receive the official Colombian response, I cannot speak.

[Pachano] Well, but you can at least say that on camera.

[Acero] No.

[Pachano] Tell me something. They say that a five-day or 48- hour period is required. What is the length of time required before a response can be given?

[Acero] That is all.

[Pachano] Excuse me. As you can see, despite the efforts made by "The News" journalists to obtain an official pronouncement from the Colombian Foreign Ministry, our efforts have been unsuccessful. Counselor Mauricio Acero of the Colombian Embassy stated he is not authorized to disclose information. [end recording]

Defense Minister Comments

PA2602195393 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 25 Feb 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich has reported that the Colombian Foreign Ministry has officially announced it is considering the possibility of granting asylum to two Venezuelan officers who participated in a coup attempt and who are currently in Colombia.

Ochoa Antich said the national government will respect the Colombian Government's decision, regardless of what that decision may be.

In a statement to our reporter Milagros Rodriguez a few minutes ago at Miraflores Palace, Ochoa Antich gave details of his conversation with Colombian Foreign Minister Nohemi Sanin.

[Begin recording] [Ochoa] She called me and sent me a communique published by the Colombian Foreign Ministry summarizing what I have just told you.

[Rodriguez] In other words, you are waiting for the decision.

[Ochoa] Yes. She told me the Colombian Foreign Ministry is studying the case. I reaffirmed the Venezuelan Government's position of absolute respect for the Colombian Government's sovereign decision.

[Rodriguez] Did Minister Sanin say when President Gaviria's government will announce its decision?

[Ochoa] No. She said the Colombian Foreign Ministry is currently studying the legal aspects and circumstances surrounding this case. [end recording]

Defense Minister Ivan Dario Jimenez Sanchez said he does not know where reports came from that 15 other Venezuelan officers have sought refuge abroad.

[Begin recording] [Jimenez] I do not know where that information came from. I understand it was attributed to a captain by the name of Rodriguez Churio, who does not exist. The only Rodriguez Churio in the Armed Forces is a retired National Guard lieutenant colonel, who voluntarily came to us on 25 February to clarify he has absolutely nothing to do with those reports.

The soldiers who deserted the Armed Forces are 40 officers who fled in a C-130 aircraft to Peru on 27 November. Nine subofficers and three aviation technicians left on the same plane and are still in Peru. The other 40 returned to Venezuela.

We have been trying to locate one Army officer and three subofficers since 27 November. One Air Force lieutenant, who fled after attacking the Barquisimeto Base, has not been captured. According to intelligence reports, he could be in Peru. There is also an air Force subofficer, who fled with weapons from the Maracay Military Circle, who has not been located.

[Rodriguez] That same day?

[Jimenez] On 27 November. Those are the only members of the Armed Forces who have deserted. [end recording]

Defense Minister Jimenez denied two reports currently circulating. One concerns an alleged shooting at the Libertador Garrison in Maracaibo. The other concerns a tear gas grenade reportedly hurled at Miraflores Palace from a vehicle on the afternoon of 25 February. Jimenez categorically denied both reports.

Bomb Hits Barinas Legislative Assembly, No Injuries

PA2602140593 Paris AFP in Spanish 2339 GMT 25 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Barinas, Venezuela, 25 Feb (AFP)—An unidentified youth hurled a homemade bomb at the Legislative Assembly of the southwestern state of Barinas on 25 February. The explosion of the bomb caused a fire, but no one was hurt, according to the local news agency INNAC.

Barinas, 420 km southwest of Caracas; and Sucre, a state on the Caribbean coast located 350 km east of the capital, have been the centers of political clashes and disorders since the most recent regional elections held on 6 December 1992. [passage omitted]

Operation Begins To Remove Brazilian Gold Prospectors

PA2802043393 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] Brazilian and Venezuelan Army troops began a joint operation to remove more than 10,000 gold prospectors who occupy the Yanumami Indian territories in the Amazon. This was announced by General Fernan Barroso Fuenmayor, the commander of the 5th Infantry Brigade and commander of the Guyana Military Garrison, who has held several meetings with the high command of the Brazilian Army at the border. He said that the measures agreed upon by the two armies include the creation of several military units to operate within their respective jurisdictions. They also agreed that Venezuelan forces will install a military training center and several army outposts with landing strips. This is all directed at protecting the national territory and preventing illegal aliens from entering the country.

* Venezuela To Promote Exports to Colombia

93SM0133A Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 25 Jan 93 p 10A

[Text] The ICE [Foreign Trade Institute] of Venezuela has begun a trade offensive to place Venezuelan goods worth more than 24 billion bolivars in the Colombian market. This is the total amount of last year's sales.

Exporters will use methods like trade fairs, meetings, business visits, and publicity to surpass last year's exports to Colombia.

According to the ICE, Colombia is an ideal partner; it represents a market of 34 million inhabitants, growing at a rate of two percent a year. The population's tastes, habits, and needs are similar to those of the Venezuelan population.

To gain access for Venezuelan exports to the Colombian market, the ICE will conduct a dynamic information program about Colombia and the economic prospects it offers to the business community.

Venezuelan exports to Colombia have grown since 1986, up from $170 million to $295.2 million in 1991. The major export item was bulk aluminum, both with and without alloys, representing 12.9 percent of the total.

The materials being distributed include an exporter's guide published by the ICE, which covers characteristics of the Colombian external market, binational trade relations, trade agreements, possibilities of access to the Colombian market, and means of transport. Export procedures are also discussed.

According to a political science professor at the University of the Andes, Tachira center (Venezuela), Pavel Rondon, this business initiative supported by the central government will stimulate the integration process between Colombia and Venezuela.

According to Antonio Zandotti Bettinazzi, San Antonio (Venezuela) customs administrator, the ICE's modernization and gradual decentralization away from Caracas will enable most exports to leave through this city, and this will become another inducement to Venezuelan exporters.

Zandotti added that the forthcoming approval of export certificates and the construction of a pilot plant inspection laboratory for agricultural products from both Venezuela and Colombia will also promote exports.

Another trade stimulus is the modernization of Colombian customs. According to Rafael Humberto Ramirez Pinzon, customs administrator in Cucuta, streamlining procedures for Venezuelan merchandise is another inducement for exports. Now this process is being done in half the time: six hours.

In 1992 Venezuela exported 18.5 tons of merchandise to Colombia.

The official said the systematization of customs, which in the future will be connected with Venezuelan customs, will streamline operations.

Easy Shipments

They are also seeking to make maximum use of the "open skies" policy approved by Decision 297 of the

Cartagena Agreement [Andean Group] Commission in 1991, and freedom of access to freight transported by land and sea.

The sites provided for land transport border operations are at Paraguachon-Guarero and San Antonio-Urena-Cucuta.

Another feature encouraging Venezuelan business to increase trade with Colombia is the CENAF [National Border Processing Centers], which streamline procedures for shipping merchandise across the border.

The sectional director of INTRA [National Transportation Institute] of Colombia, Jorge Enrique Arenas Hernandez, said that during the two years the CENAF's have been in existence, they have improved customs procedures for both commercial users and tourists.

About 22,000 tons transported in 1,800 vehicles pass through the Villa del Rosario CENAF every month. The products entering most frequently are: automobiles, polymers, aluminum, chemical products, laminated iron or steel, rice, and soybeans.

Another inducement offered by the Venezuelan business community is the creation of 45 freight agencies in Cucuta. This will help to speed the shipment of products to Colombia's major cities.

CONAVI Card Useful in Venezuela

Among 21 binational financial sector agreements, one just signed by the Cucuta branch of Colombia's CONAVI [Savings and Housing Corporation] and Sofitasa of San Cristobal (Venezuela) stands out.

According to Edgar Granados Maldonado, manager of this CONAVI regional branch, the introduction of this service marks an important advance in financial integration. A satellite will be used to link the banking networks, he reported.

The systems' interconnection will enable users in both countries to check their balances, withdraw money, make savings deposits or withdrawals, and transfer funds with the convenience of a large bank. These transfers may be made through an ATM [automatic teller machine] in less than three seconds.

CONAVI has 110 ATM's in Colombia located in various cities. "We want to help our customers traveling in Venezuela and also Venezuelans visiting us to obtain money with either their Sofitasa or CONAVI card," said Granados.

Granados Maldonado said these transfers will be made at the exchange rate, plus an 0.5 percent commission.

At the present time the Sofitasa bank has 80,000 customers who may benefit from this agreement.

Granados Maldonado said this is a first experiment, and they also plan to establish this service with other banks in Ecuador and Panama.

Guyana

PNC Officially Expels Former Prime Minister

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[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 27, CANA—Ex-Prime Minister Hamilton Green was officially expelled from the parliamentary opposition People's National Congress (PNC) Saturday after being found guilty of misconduct, the party said today.

"The general secretary of the People's National Congress (PNC) Mrs. Robert Corbin today delivered a letter to Mr. Hamilton Green notifying him that the disciplinary committee established by the party to inquire into certain allegations of misconduct made against him has found him guilty and has determined that he be expelled from the party," a PNC statement added.

"This decision takes immediate effect," the six-line release said.

Green, the former deputy PNC leader who resigned in early December, was found guilty of making "disparaging remarks" against party leader and former President Desmond Hoyte by a disciplinary committee headed by former presidential adviser, Dr. Ptolemy Reid. Green, 58, allegedly accused Hoyte of allowing himself to be manipulated by "the white people," former United States President Jimmy Carter, and other international observers invited by Hoyte to scrutinise Guyana's October 5 general elections.

"The battlegrounds are now drawn and he is taking it (his expulsion) to the (High) Court on Monday," an authoritative party source told CANA. "It's no-holds barred. The breathing space Hoyte was given when some people were trying to broker a peaceful solution is now over."

The source added: "Green 'held back' from pressing ahead with legal action to declare the disciplinary process unconstitutional but will move to the High Court Monday seeking an injunction declaring his expulsion contravenes the laws of natural justice." Green, the source said, could not appeal the decision since he had challenged the composition and operation of the disciplinary committee.

The ex-prime minister walked out of the committee's lone hearing early last month, branding it a "kangaroo court." He had asked for a public hearing, the right to cross examine and call his own witnesses, and to have access to the statements of his accusers. The widening rift between Hoyte and Green appeared certain to split the party ahead of municipal and local government elections, likely to be held by August.